

USA \$1.99 JANUARY 28, 2008

# JET

## steve harvey

TELLS  
BLACK MEN  
'YOU CAN BE 50  
AND FLY'

Sister of MLK  
Reflects On  
Iconic Family

High Stakes  
For Obama In  
South Carolina



A JOHNSON PUBLICATION  
[www.ebonyJET.com](http://www.ebonyJET.com)

# WE BELIEVE IN



## YOUR FUTURE

Hybrid Synergy Drive Technology and Fuel Cell Hydrogen Vehicles. These innovations wouldn't be possible without great minds. And great minds flourish best under the guidance of great teachers. The Toyota Tapestry Program is the nation's largest K-12 science teacher grant program of its kind. With this program, children also learn how to better their relationship with the environment. Learn more by visiting [www.toyota.com/community](http://www.toyota.com/community)



# JET

A JOHNSON PUBLICATION

# CONTENTS

JANUARY 28, 2008 • VOL. 113, NO. 3



Alan Mothner/AP

**WILLIE CHRISTINE KING FARRIS (I), Coretta Scott King, Rev. Bernice King and Martin Luther King III pray after laying a commemorative wreath on Martin Luther King Jr.'s tomb in April 2001. Farris, 80, is the last living member of the civil rights leader's birth family and is still working to keep the legacy of her younger brother alive ON PAGE 14.**

**48 AFRICAN AFFAIRS**

**20 BLACK HISTORY**

**4 CELEBRITY SCENE**

**59 CELEBRITIES**

**60 COVER STORY**

**46 EDUCATION**

**39 IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

**43 JET BEAUTY  
OF THE WEEK**

**37 LAW & JUSTICE**

**28 LOVE & HAPPINESS**

**6 NATIONAL  
REPORT**

**21 NEWSMAKERS**

**51 SPORTS**

**66 TELEVISION**

**65 THE PLAYLIST**

**41 THE WEEK'S  
BEST PHOTOS**

**31 WHERE IS ...?**

*Cover photo by Taj Stansberry*

**MOVING SOON?** Please let us know before you go. Send the present address label from your copy of the magazine, along with your new address, to: JET, P.O. BOX 56209, Boulder, CO. 80322-6209 or call 1-800-999-2617 or go online to [www.ebonyjet.com](http://www.ebonyjet.com).



JET (ISSN 0021-5996) is published weekly except combined issue in December. U.S.A. one year \$42.00; Canada \$72.00; all other foreign countries \$92.00 by Johnson Publishing Company, Inc., 820 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605. Payable in U.S. currency only. Periodicals postage paid at Chicago, Illinois and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to JET, PO Box 56209 Boulder, CO, 80322-6209

Offices at Rockefeller Center, 1270 Avenue of The Americas, New York, N.Y. 10020, 1750 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, 6500 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048. We cannot be responsible for unsolicited material. Member, Audit Bureau of Circulations. Canadian GST No. R 124 411380 Return Undeliverable Canadian Address To P.O. Box 503, RPO West Beaver Creek, Richmond Hill ON L4B 4R6

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40048950

© 2007 Johnson Publishing Company, Inc. © TM SM - JET, AMERICAN BLACK ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS, ANOTHER FINE PRODUCT FROM EBONY, BLACK FAMILY REUNION TOUR, COUNTERTALK, EBONY, EBONY BLACK FAMILY REUNION TOUR, EBONY CLASSICS, EBONY FASHION FAIR, EBONY HOME, EBONY INSPIRATIONS, EBONY/JET, EBONY LIVING, EM, FASHION FAIR, FF, HOLLYWOOD IN HARLEM, JET, JPC, SISTERSPEAK, SUNNY&HONEY, TASTE OF EBONY, and accompanying logos, designs and product marks are the trademarks and trade dress of Johnson Publishing Company, Inc. and are for use exclusively with its products and services

# CELEB SCENE

Leon Bennett/Courtesy BET



B

Leon Bennett/Courtesy BET



C

Leon Bennett/Courtesy BET



D

Evan Yucci/AP

(A), (B) & (C) Singing legend **Patti LaBelle** performs *Walk Around Heaven* at BET's 8th Celebration Of Gospel. **Rev. Jesse Jackson** and **Dr. Bobby Jones** greet backstage at the two-hour telecast, hosted by comedian/actor Steve Harvey. **John Legend** performs during the telecast that featured moving performances and renditions by many of today's hottest and most talented artists from the worlds of gospel and R&B including Kirk Franklin, Yolanda Adams, Fred Hammond and others. (D) **Wyclef Jean** and **Niia** arrive for the first BET Honors show in Washington, slated to air Feb. 22. Niia is a featured singer on *Sweetest Girl (Dollar Bill)*, the lead single off Jean's sixth solo album, *Carnival Vol. II: Memoirs of an Immigrant*.



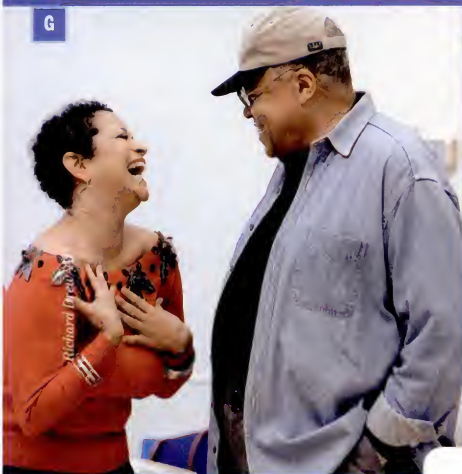
E



(E) Movie star **Chris Tucker** arrives on the red carpet with his mother, **Mary Tucker**, before entering the 2008 Trumpet Awards ceremonies, which recently were held at the Atlanta Civic Center in Atlanta.

(F) Actors **Tracy Morgan** (l) and **Ice Cube** have fun backstage after an appearance on "MTV's Total Request Live at MTV Studios" in New York City. They co-star in the new film *First Sunday*. (G) **Debbie Allen** and **James Earl Jones** chat on the first day of rehearsal for the new Broadway production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* in New York. The play will be directed by Allen with Jones playing Big Daddy.

G



F



Evan Agostini/AP

This One



5WA2-LKW-WYLU

Sen. Barack Obama speaks during a campaign stop at the Opera House in Lebanon, NH.



Jet photo by Valerie Goodloe

## Campaign Rhetoric Gets Rough, Racial As South Carolina Primary Nears

By Kevin Chappell  
JET MAGAZINE

**W**ith the Iowa and Nevada caucuses and New Hampshire and Michigan primaries behind them, the Democratic presidential frontrunners focus on the South Carolina primary (Jan. 26), and the battle for the state's 54 delegates. South Carolina polls have Barack Obama leading the pack by as much as 20 percentage points. According to a poll conducted by the Rasmussen Reports in early January, 42 percent of voters favor Obama, compared to 30 percent who support Hillary Clinton and 14 percent who support John Edwards, who was born in the state.

Among the state's African-Americans, who make up 55 percent of the reg-

istered Democratic voters, Obama is also doing well.

According to the poll, Obama, who placed second in the New Hampshire primary, now has 58 percent of the Black vote, up from 50 percent in December, and nearly double Clinton's African-American support in South Carolina. These numbers are even more telling when it is considered that a few months ago, Black voters in the Palmetto State were split evenly among Obama and Clinton. It is believed that whichever candidate wins the Black vote will win the state, partly because White voters are split fairly evenly between Obama, Clinton and Edwards.

Greenville, SC, resident Allison Howard said that she has seen more and

ADVERTISEMENT

Breathing easy.



## NATIONAL REPORT

more African-Americans express their support for Obama. "His support is really strong among young people," said the 28-year-old elementary school teacher. "He should do really well here."

Obama plans to canvass the state, speaking to groups, both large and small. He has enlisted the help of big-name supporters like actresses Alfre Woodard and Jasmine Guy to take part in get-out-the-vote rallies and town hall-style meetings.

Ironically, a statement Clinton made prior to the New Hampshire primary stirred racial controversy that erupted during campaigning in South Carolina when Clinton and supporter Black billionaire businessman Robert Johnson appeared at a Columbia College rally in Columbia, SC.

In New Hampshire, Clinton noted that Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of racial equality was realized only when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Some Blacks have criticized the comment as suggesting Johnson deserved more credit than King for passage and enactment of the civil rights legislation.

"She made an ill-advised statement about Dr. King, suggesting that Lyndon Johnson had more to do with the Civil Rights Act," Obama later said.

Johnson, BET founder and Charlotte



▲ Obama poses with union member Elodia Rodriguez after a rally at the Culinary Workers Union in Las Vegas.

Bobcats owner, claimed that Obama's campaign has distorted Clinton's remarks and told the Columbia crowd: "That kind of campaign behavior would not be reasonable with me for a guy who says 'I want to be a reasonable, likable, Sidney Poitier.'"

Johnson also said Obama's own record should give voters pause.

"To me, as an African-American, I am frankly insulted the Obama campaign would imply that we are so stupid that we would think Hillary and Bill Clinton, who have been deeply and emotionally involved in black issues—when Barack Obama was doing something in the neighborhood; I won't say what he was doing, but he said it in his book—when they have been involved," Johnson said.

Obama wrote about his teenage drug use—marijuana, alcohol and sometimes cocaine—in his memoir, *Dreams from My Father*.





As experienced in the 2008 Camry XLE V6.

When does an air conditioner actually help you breathe better? When it's among the many innovations found in the 2008 Camry XLE V6. Toyota's exclusive Plasmacluster Ionizer reduces airborne mold spores, microbes, fungi, odors, germs and bacteria. The 2008 Camry XLE V6—stylish and smart. Finally, a car designed with you in mind.



Johnson later said his comments referred to Obama's work as a community organizer in Chicago "and nothing else. Any other suggestion is simply irresponsible and incorrect," he said in a statement released by Clinton's campaign.

Obama, who was campaigning in Las Vegas at the time, said, "I'm not going to spend all my time running down the other candidates, which seems to be what Senator Clinton has been obsessed with for the last month."

After South Carolina, Obama and the other candidates will turn to Super Tuesday, when 22 states will vote and more than 1,000 delegates will be up for grabs.

The latest USA Today/Gallup Poll puts Obama and Clinton in a virtual tie in national polling, with each getting one-third of the vote.

Obama finished a close second in New Hampshire, garnering 37 percent of the primary vote to Clinton's 39 percent. But after the nation witnessed the lasting impressions of support in the nearly all-White New England state, being runner-up may only be a minor bump in the road for Obama as the race for president heads to South Carolina and Super Tuesday.

At stop after stop in New Hampshire, everyone—from grown men to expectant mothers—trekked through 5-foot snowdrifts to get a glimpse of the junior senator from Illinois.

At Stevens High School in Claremont, NH, Obama stood on the school auditori-

um's stage with a broad smile on his face, looking like a modern-day David as he soaked in the moment only days after defeating the Clinton machine in Iowa. Hundreds of people waved signs and cheered wildly. Later on that day, the scene was similar at the Opera House in Lebanon, NH. Through the strain of a raspy, hoarse voice, Obama talked extensively in an idealistic tone that his supporters have become accustomed to hearing from him.

New Hampshire resident Rick Wilde stood in line for more than an hour to see Obama. "I have every intention to vote for him," Wilde said. "I like him because after the last two presidential terms, the country needs one who is less polarizing. I feel like he has a calm spirit, and in politics you don't see that very often."

Phil Marshall agrees, and went one step further saying that unlike any other time in American history, being African-American might be a positive. "The United States has some fences to mend with other countries around the world," Marshall said. "The next president is going to go to other world leaders and say that things are going to be different. If I'm one of those other world leaders on the other side of the table, and somebody tells me that, my reaction is going to be why should I believe you. If Barack Obama is sitting on the other side of the table, I don't even think that the question is even going to come up." □

—Associated Press contributed to this report

## Top Court's Voter-ID Case Key In Nation's Elections

**D**emocrats and Republicans squared off before the Supreme Court over a law that requires voters to produce photo identification before they cast a ballot.

The strictest voter-ID law in the nation was passed by Indiana's Republican-led legislature on party-line votes and signed by its Republican governor in 2005 as a way to deter voter fraud. The Bush administration supports Indiana's law.

Democrats who are challenging the law say it uses prevention of fraud as a pretext to discourage elderly, poor and minority voters—those most likely to lack proper ID and who tend to vote for

Democrats.

A federal judge who upheld the voter-ID law pointed out that opponents were unable to produce evidence of a single, individual Indiana resident who had been barred from voting because of the law.

Courts have upheld voter-ID laws in Arizona, Georgia and Michigan, but struck down Missouri's. The top court's case should be decided by late June, in time for the November elections.

The justices could use the case to instruct courts on claims of voter fraud versus those of disenfranchisement.

—Associated Press

■ **FLORIDA'S 50-CAR PILEUP:** About 50 cars crashed on a highway blanketed by fog and smoke from a brush fire in central Florida, killing four people, local officials said. A stretch of nearly 15 miles of Interstate 4 between Tampa and Orlando was closed by several accidents, including the pileup. The accidents were blamed on a mix of dense fog and smoke from a brush fire.



## Lawmakers' Pay In Congress Gets Bump To \$169,300

**F**ortunately for members of Congress, their pay isn't tied to their approval ratings.

Lawmakers in 2008 will receive salaries of \$169,300, a boost of \$4,100 over the pay they have lived with since January 2006.

That 2.5 percent increase is mirrored by similar raises for associate justices of the Supreme Court, who will see their pay go from \$203,000 to \$208,100, and Chief Justice John Roberts, whose pay will rise to \$217,400 from \$212,100.

The salary figures were published in a recent edition of the Federal Register.

Last year was the first since 1999—when the pay was \$136,700—that members of Congress did not receive a cost-of-living allowance raise along with other federal employees. Democrats, newly elected to the majority, had vowed to block an increase in their paychecks until Congress raised the minimum wage.

With the minimum-wage increase accomplished last year, House Democratic leaders joined with their Republican counterparts to oppose a procedural vote to bring the COLA issue to the floor, leaving the way clear for their automatic raise.

The congressional COLA is linked, under a complicated formula, to the cost-of-living increase awarded civil servants. As part of a 1989 ethics bill,

Congress gave up its ability to accept pay for speeches and made annual cost-of-living pay increases automatic unless lawmakers voted otherwise.

Rep. Jim Matheson (D-Utah) a leading critic of the COLA process, said in an interview that he's not proposing that members of Congress never get a pay raise. But he said that, in a time of budget deficits when many people are undergoing economic hardships, "at least we ought to have an up-and-down vote on it. The whole process appears so secretive."

Reluctance to openly discuss the salary issue comes at a time when Congress has been suffering low public approval ratings. In a December AP-Ipsos poll, 25 percent of those surveyed approved of the job Congress was doing. □

—Associated Press

### Salaries For Nation's Leaders

**House Speaker Nancy Pelosi:**  
In '06: \$212,100 In '08: \$217,400

**Senate president pro tempore Robert Byrd:**  
In '06: \$183,500 In '08: \$188,100

**Vice President Dick Cheney:**  
In '06: \$215,700 In '08: \$221,100

**President Bush:**  
In '06: \$400,000 In '08: Unchanged

—Associated Press





FOUNDER  
**JOHN H. JOHNSON**  
1918-2005

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
**LINDA JOHNSON RICE**  
SECRETARY-TREASURER AND DIRECTOR  
OF EBONY FASHION FAIR  
**EUNICE W. JOHNSON**  
VICE CHAIRMAN AND GENERAL COUNSEL  
**JUNE ACIE RHINEHART**

**JET**

Vice President & Editorial Director *Bryan Monroe*

Managing Editor *Malcolm R. West*  
Assistant Managing Editor *Mira Lowe*  
Senior Staff Editor *Clarence Waldron*  
Features Editor *Margena A. Christian*

**Associate Editors**

*Melody K. Hoffman, Marti Parham*

Copy Chief *Candi Meriwether*

Photo Director *Dudley M. Brooks*

**Staff Photographers**

*Vandell Cobb, Valerie Goodloe*

**Art Directors**

*Ingrid R. Larkin, Lewis E. Lee Jr.*

**Graphic Artist**

*Rockland L. Page*

Web Site Designer *Brandi Davis*

Art Production Director *Cathy Reedy*

**Pre-Media Manager**

*William H. Sholar*

**Digital Imaging & Pre Media**

*Lloyd V. Redwing, Lournetta A. Martin, Benny Williams*

---

**Group Publisher Kenard E. Gibbs**

---

**ADVERTISING**

Vice President and Group Advertising Director

*Nijole S. Yutkowitz*

Midwest Advertising Manager *Robin Whaley-Smith*

Eastern Advertising Manager *Craig Robinson*

Research Director *Aiesha Powell*

Vice President, Director Manufacturing and Sales

*Tammy E. Rollé*

Advertising Production Coordinator *Janine E. Marzett*

Senior Marketing Manager *Rebecca R. Dailey*

Executive Assistant to Group Publisher *Sherry E. Bailey*

**ADMINISTRATION**

Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

*Treka Owens*

Vice President, MultiMedia Resources

*Pamela Cash Menzies*

Asst. VP/Director Human Resources *Shelia E. Jenkins*

Asst. VP/Corporate Affairs *Staci R. Collins Jackson*

Asst. VP/Licensing *Lisa M. Butler*

Senior Corporate Counsel *Renée Cogdell Lewis*

Assistant to the President *Helena T. Boyd*

**CIRCULATION**

Circulation Director *Robert Acquaye*

Single Copy Sales Manager *Thomas Jamison*

Executive Editor *Robert E. Johnson (1953-1995)*

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A. <http://www.ebonyjet.com>

**ADVERTISER  
INTERNET  
DIRECTORY**

**Especially Yours Wigs**  
[www.especiallyyours.com](http://www.especiallyyours.com)

**Toyota**  
[www.toyota.com](http://www.toyota.com)

**JET**

[www.ebonyJET.com](http://www.ebonyJET.com)

# King Sister's Tenacity Inspires Family Of Leaders

Ben Gray/Atlanta Journal-Constitution



By Marti Parham  
JET MAGAZINE

**H**er younger brother, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., may have been the focus of the Civil Rights Movement during the '60s, but Willie Christine King Farris has always had a hand in making improvements for the people.

"People say, 'We never see you,' but I was a behind-the-scenes person," Farris explains. "I saw to it that my brother had what he needed—a confidante or whatever. My role is still the same as it was when my brother was here."

Farris' work is most noticeable during the national King holiday. As vice chair/treasurer of The King Center in Atlanta,

◀ Willie Christine King Farris, 80, says she keeps her family legacy alive by doing her part as a "behind-the-scenes person."

Farris diligently works on the King holiday commemorative program and the Salute to Greatness Awards Dinner, the center's primary fundraising initiative.

"She has been the ultimate support person," says her son, Isaac Farris Jr., president and chief executive officer of The King Center. "With the death of my aunt [Coretta Scott King], she has been serving in a more public role."

The King family has seen its share of tragedy and death. The most recent passings were, in 2006, Martin Luther King's widow, Coretta—the woman Farris calls the sister she never had—and last year, the couple's oldest child, actress Yolanda King.

At 80 years old, Farris is the last living member of Martin Luther King's birth family.

"I do not understand why I seem to be the last one of my immediate family line. I do not question it," she says. "I go ahead and do what I think I'm suppose to do, which is to continue the legacy of my brothers, mother and father the best I can."

Besides the civil rights icon's assassination by Lee Harvey Oswald in 1968, two other King family members have died tragically. In 1969, the youngest King, Alfred Daniel (known as A.D.)

Revised Edition!

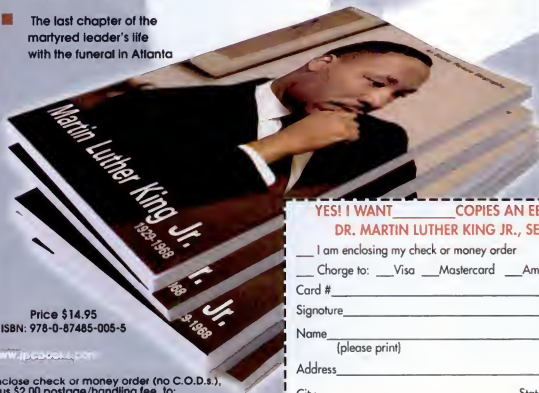
AN EBONY PICTURE BIOGRAPHY

# Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**THE FIRST BLACK AMERICAN  
HONORED BY A  
NATIONAL HOLIDAY**

Dr. King changed the lives of all Americans. EBONY's picture biography tells the story of the life, public and private, of the man who "tried to love and serve humanity."

- 82 pages of photos with excerpts from Dr. King's famed speeches
- A reprint of the full text of Dr. King's historic "I Have A Dream" speech given at the March On Washington
- A view of the protests and the marches
- His acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize
- The last chapter of the martyred leader's life with the funeral in Atlanta



Price \$14.95  
ISBN: 978-0-87485-005-5

www.jpcbooks.com

Enclose check or money order (no C.O.D.s.), plus \$2.00 postage/handling fee, to:  
JPC Book Division  
Johnson Publishing Company, Inc.  
820 S. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60605

**YES! I WANT \_\_\_\_\_ COPIES AN EBONY PICTURE BIOGRAPHY  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., SEND THEM TO ME NOW!**

☐ I am enclosing my check or money order  
 \_\_\_ Charge to: \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ Mastercard \_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_ Discover  
 Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 (please print)  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. # \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send \$2.00 for handling for each additional book purchased at \$14.95 to:  
Johnson Publishing Company Books, 820 South Michigan Ave. Chicago, IL 60605

## NATIONAL REPORT

► Congratulating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 are (l-r) his mother, Alberta Williams King; father Rev. Martin Luther King Sr.; Farris; brother Alfred Daniel (A. D.) King and wife Coretta Scott King.

drowned mysteriously in a swimming pool at his home. "We've never been able to solve that one because he was an excellent swimmer," Farris recalls.

Farris' mother, Alberta Williams King, was fatally shot in 1974 by Marcus Wayne Chenault while she was playing the organ at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.

"I saw this young man stand up on the pew, pointing a gun, saying 'I'm taking over here this morning,' and the first person he shot was my mother," Farris said.

Rev. Martin Luther King Sr., the patriarch of the family, died of a heart attack in 1984.

"To be able to withstand all of those losses and to still stand and be able to move about the way she's moving about, that's tremendous to me," says Farris' niece, Rev. Bernice King, who is Martin Luther King's youngest child. "...I really admire and respect her for that. It gives me a sense of strength. I look at her and say, 'Hey, if she can stand, I can stand.'"

Farris says she's not resentful about her family's extreme sacrifices.

► The King siblings both graduated from Black colleges in Atlanta—Martin from Morehouse and Christine from Spelman.





Ric Feld/AP



► Willie Christine King Farris says that Coretta Scott King, her late sister-in-law who died in 2006, was like the sister she never had.

"My strong faith and belief in God has sustained me. That's all I can attribute it to," she says. "We were always taught not to carry and nurture hatred and bitterness. That takes you down and I can't afford to go down that road. Certainly I'm sorry, but I can't go around blaming death and holding blame against people."

Another thing that keeps Farris motivated is her work as an educator. She has been a professor in the department of education at her alma mater, Atlanta's Spelman College, for 49 years. Her daughter, Dr. Angela Farris Watkins, also teaches there.

"It's been such a joy to be in the same career line as her," Watkins says. "She has been a change agent in this field, given her experience and upbringing in a family known for its leadership. Her brother [was a change agent] in a more public and social way; she has done that

for the field of education in her own way."

Farris, who has been married to Isaac Farris Sr. for 47 years, says she does plan to slow down, but she's not sure when.

"I enjoy working with those students so very much," Farris says. "I am trying to position myself for retirement, but I don't know what I would do. I can't just sit around. I think that would take me out of here pretty soon."

Farris, who has one granddaughter, also works as a writer. She is the author of the children's books *My Brother Martin* and *Martin Luther King Jr., His Life and Dream*, and will soon release her third book for youngsters titled *March On*, about the historic march on Washington that featured Martin Luther King Jr. Her memoir, *Through It All*, is near completion.

Though Farris has had a front-row view of U.S. civil rights history, she's now watching a new messenger of change emerge in the nation.

Like the rest of the country, she too will be watching to see if Sen. Barack Obama can make history as the first Black president of the United States.

Considering her life experiences, she's cautiously optimistic.

"That would be a great thing if that would happen, but I do know America," she says. "I'm praying that America will live up to its creed, as my brother said. That's the hope but whether that will happen, none of us knows." □



Martin Luther King National Memorial Project Foundation/AP

■ **SPRING CONSTRUCTION FOR KING MEMORIAL:** Construction is slated to begin this spring on the Martin Luther King Memorial (artist rendering above) on the National Mall in Washington, DC. The project is scheduled for opening next year. The memorial will sit between the Jefferson Memorial and Lincoln Memorial, where the civil rights pioneer delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963.

## CNN Host O'Brien Wins Freedom's Voice Award

**P**rominent CNN anchor and special correspondent Soledad O'Brien will be the first recipient of the Soledad O'Brien Freedom's Voice Award.

Two organizations, Community Voices: Healthcare for the Underserved and Morehouse College's School of Medicine, created the award in her name to recognize catalysts for social change.

"Ms. O'Brien's accomplishments in her field, her commitment to cover stories that might otherwise go untold, and her steadfast willingness to be a voice for those in our society who are unseen and unheard set a high standard," said Dr. John E. Maupin, president of Morehouse School of Medicine.



Soledad O'Brien

Anchoring specials for the *CNN: Special Investigations Unit*, O'Brien gave viewers a never-before-seen look at Martin Luther King Jr.'s private writings, notes and teachings. She also provided a look at young Hurricane Katrina survivors.

"It's such an incredible honor to be receiving such an amazing award," O'Brien told JET. "I think all journalists want their work to have an impact and effect change in some way... To have an award created in my name is incredibly gratifying and humbling," she said.

The award will be presented in Atlanta in April. □

—Melody K. Hoffman

# New Jersey Becomes 1st Northern State To Apologize For 'Wrongs Inflicted By Slavery'



Mike Derer/AP

◀ Jersey City Deputy Mayor Kabili Tayari (l) joins New Jersey state Assemblyman Craig Stanley (2nd from l) Assemblyman William Payne (2nd from r), and Lawrence Hamm (r), chairman of People's Organization for Progress, at a meeting of state lawmakers. Payne and Stanley sponsored the measure in which New Jersey formally expresses an apology for the state's role in slavery.

**N**ew Jersey became the first Northern state to apologize for slavery, as legislators approved a resolution expressing “profound regret” for the state’s role in the practice.

The Assembly and the Senate 29-2 both voted overwhelmingly to approve the resolution, which expresses the Legislature’s opinion without requiring action by the governor.

“This resolution does nothing more than say New Jersey is sorry about its shameful past,” said Assemblyman William Payne, a Democrat who sponsored the measure.

The resolution apologizes “for the wrongs inflicted by slavery and its after-effects in the United States of America.”

It states that in New Jersey, “the ves-

tiges of slavery are ever before African-American citizens, from the overt racism of hate groups to the subtle racism encountered when requesting health care, transacting business, buying a home, seeking quality public education and college admission, and enduring pretextual traffic stops and other indignities.”

Legislators in Alabama, Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia have issued formal apologies for slavery.

According to the resolution, New Jersey was the last state in the Northeast to formally abolish slavery, not doing so until 1846. The state didn’t ratify the constitutional amendment prohibiting slavery until January 1866, a month after it had already become federal law.

—Associated Press

# BLACK HISTORY



**January 21, 1964—**

**Carl T. Rowan**, journalist, ambassador and author, was named director of the U.S. Information Agency (USIA), a position that made him the highest-ranking Black in the federal government, on this day. Born Aug. 11, 1925, in McMinnville, TN, Rowan received his bachelor's degree from Oberlin College in Ohio and earned his master's degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota. His career began in 1950 as a staff writer for the Minneapolis Tribune. In 1961 he joined the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C., as deputy assistant for public affairs. Later he became the U.S. ambassador to Finland before he joined the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) as director. The USIA, which has

merged with the State Department, described America's actions and principles to the rest of the world through TV, newspapers, information centers and "The Voice of America" radio network. Rowan wrote several books, including *Wait Till Next Year*, *Between Us Blacks* and *Breaking Barriers*, and went on to become a nationally syndicated columnist. He died of natural causes on Sept. 23, 2000.

**January 27, 1961—**

**Leontyne Price**, acclaimed opera diva, made her formal debut at the Metropolitan Opera on this day. Brilliantly performing the role of Leonora in Verdi's *Il trovatore*, the audience rewarded her with a thrilling 42-minute ovation! Born Mary Violet Leontyne Price in Laurel, MS, on Feb. 10, 1927, her family life centered around the church where both her parents, James and Kate Price, were active. Introduced to music at an early age, she began piano lessons at age 4. In 1949, Price earned a bachelor's degree from Central State College in Wilberforce, OH, and attended New York City's famed Juilliard School of Music from 1949 to 1952. One of the greatest opera singers of our time, Leontyne Price earned 20 Grammy Awards. Now retired, she resides in New York City.





# Hollywood Award Season Reeling From Writers Strike

Usually the first two months of the year, dubbed the Hollywood awards season, bring the stars out to red carpet ceremonies to honor the work they've done in TV and movies over the last 12 months. This year, the Hollywood writers strike, which began Nov. 5, is stirring big changes to those festivities.

The first awards show to feel the pinch from the strike by the Writers Guild of America (WGA) was the People's Choice Awards.

Hosted by rapper/singer/actress Queen Latifah, the traditionally live telecast took a new format that included pre-taped acceptance speeches from celebrities who refused to cross the picket line.

"The thing about the People's Choice Awards that's different from everybody else is it's the People's Choice," Latifah said. "So as much as we actors and writers and everyone are dealing with the writers strike and supporting the Writers Guild, you can't disrespect the people who keep us working, and that's the people. Ten million people logged on and voted for everyone, so out of respect for them, we have to" [present the awards].

Officials at the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, who put on the Golden Globes Awards, scrapped the show altogether. It was announced that recipients of this year's award would be revealed during an hour-long press conference.

► Actor Don Cheadle holds the Joel Siegel award for his humanitarian efforts at the recent Critics' Choice Awards in Santa Monica, CA. That ceremony wasn't picketed by the writers so a lot of stars went. Cheadle acknowledged the strike in his acceptance speech.



The Screen Actors Guild (SAG) reached a cooperation agreement with the WGA. The live telecast of the SAG Awards was set to go on as planned for Jan. 27 on the TNT and TBS networks.

The NAACP Image Awards is scheduled to air live on the FOX network on Valentine's Day. According to NAACP publicist Richard J. McIntire, the organization has applied to the guild for a waiver, but has yet to hear whether they will receive it.

The big question is whether or not the Academy Awards, the movie world's biggest night, will move forward with their Feb. 24 ceremony and risk being picketed by the writers.

The loss of money because of the strike has hit the industry hard. With the

## NEWSMAKERS

► Queen Latifah accepts the award for best acting ensemble for *Hairspray* along with other cast members at the Critics' Choice Awards this month.

cancellation of the Golden Globes, many parties and weekend events were canceled, starting the trickle-down effect to makeup artists, caterers, limo drivers, event planners and security guards.

In terms of exposure and red-carpet significance, for example, the Golden Globes is second to only the Oscars, and fashion houses may face setbacks because couture gowns won't be showcased.

Award shows have been the "free" vehicle to raise exposure for a designer's brand and the loss of such elite events causes a financial drain.

Networks and advertisers have felt the money strain from the strike as well. With the truncated Globes gala, which was to air on NBC and regularly reaches about 20 million viewers, the network is reportedly offering some advertisers cash back for the event because of the ratings slump.

The Oscars, perhaps the second-biggest advertising night after the Super Bowl, it reached nearly 40 million viewers last year.

With the fate of the Academy Awards still up in the air, companies that are looking to build on the \$1.5 million, 30-second spot they purchased will catch the ripple effect if the show is canceled. □

—Combined reports from JET staff



### Key Writers Strike Issues:

The central issue is compensation for programs, movies and other content streamed or downloaded on the Internet. Writers want a framework for residual payments now, citing what they considered raw deals in the 1980s involving what ultimately became lucrative home-video and DVD markets. Producers say it's too soon to know how much money they can make on the Web or even which formats will work. They're offering limited proposals that would end in three years and be renegotiated.

### Key Issues In The Last Writers Strike:

The last Hollywood writers strike occurred in 1988 and lasted 22 weeks over many of the same issues facing negotiators today: larger payments for reruns and foreign distribution. When an agreement was reached, the guild won improvements in creative control over scripts and the reacquisition of original screenplays, but gained little in payments for overseas broadcasts.

—Associated Press

Reed Saxon/AP



◀ Donda West and her son, Kanye, backstage in 2006 at the 48th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

## Autopsy Report Inconclusive On How Kanye West's Mother Died

**D**onda West, the mother of rapper Kanye West, died of heart disease and "multiple postoperative factors" after plastic surgery, a deputy medical examiner in Los Angeles said.

But a coroner's report said the exact contribution these factors could have played in West's death following breast reduction, tummy tuck and liposuction couldn't be determined.

The investigation found "therapeutic levels of medication" but no unusually high levels and no internal bleeding.

Donda West, 58, died Nov. 10 at a Los Angeles-area hospital, a day after her surgery.

"It is my opinion Ms. West died from some pre-existing coronary artery disease and multiple postoperative factors," Dr. Louis A. Pena, a deputy medical examiner, stated in the autopsy report.

"Based on the history and available information, as currently known, the manner of death could not be determined," Pena said. A representative for Kanye West declined to comment.

Asked if Donda West would still be alive if she hadn't undergone the surgery, Los Angeles County coroner's official Ed Winter said, "She could, possibly. But

she could have also died because of pre-existing cardiac issues."

The coroner's office had said early indications suggested West died from surgical complications. But the report said "there was no evidence of a surgical or anesthetic misadventure," Reuters news agency reported.

West was found unresponsive at her home a day after her surgery. In emergency 911 tapes released, two unidentified women told a dispatcher that West suffered a heart attack and unsuccessfully tried to revive her.

Dr. Jan Adams, who operated on West, has denied any wrongdoing. Adams has repeatedly suggested other causes of death including heart attack, pulmonary embolism or accidental overdose of painkillers prescribed after the surgery.

Adams' spokesman, Kevin Williams, didn't immediately respond to phone or e-mail requests for comment.

West was the inspiration for the song *Hey Mama* on her rapper-son's 2005 album, "Late Registration."

She left academia in 2004 to manage her son's career.

—Compiled from wire reports



## ■ CHAKA & BEBE TAKE BROADWAY:

Oprah Winfrey, key producer of Broadway's *The Color Purple*, congratulates the musical's new

stars (top) gospel singer BeBe Winans, Chaka Khan and "American Idol" finalist LaKisha Jones during curtain call at the Broadway Theatre in New York City. Khan makes her Broadway debut as Sofia and Winans stars as her husband, Harpo. Jones plays the church soloist. Songwriters Brenda Russell (r) and Denise Rich join Patti LaBelle (l) at an after-show reception. Also, Khan, the legendary

songstress, celebrates her triumphant Broadway debut with her mother, Sandra Coleman.



—Photos by Adria Diane Hughes



# No Big Payday For Originator Of 'Cheetah Girls'

By Margena A. Christian  
JET MAGAZINE

**D**eborah Gregory still recalls the haunting in Olivia Goldsmith's voice in 1999 when the late author of *The First Wives Club* told her that she "didn't get paid." Gregory, author of the popular *The Cheetah Girls* book series, didn't have a clue what Goldsmith was talking about.

Fast forward to 2003, when *The Cheetah Girls* was made into a Disney channel TV movie, capturing 6.5 million viewers. The movie's sequel topped the first, becoming the most-watched original movie in the Disney Channel's history, according to Disney.

The characters' popularity helped them to become a brand with massive merchandising, including soundtracks, DVDs, video games and sold-out concerts that raked in big bucks.

Gregory, however, now knows what Goldsmith meant, because she's singing the same tune.

"I haven't been paid one cent," Gregory claims. "It's called 'net profit participation.' It never pays a cent."

Gregory isn't the only author to find out the hard way about Hollywood accounting, which reduces the reported profit of a movie through the calculation of overhead expenses, employee salaries and advertising costs.

Net profit is defined as an amount of



▲ Deborah Gregory (top), author of *The Cheetah Girls* book series, and her dog, Cappuccino, attend the New York premiere for the Disney Channel TV movie *The Cheetah Girls* in 2003. Raven-Symoné (below, c), the star of the 2003 movie, is joined by her co-stars and fellow *Cheetah Girls* (l-r) Sabrina Bryan, Kiely Williams and Adrienne Bailon (r) along with actress Lynn Whitfield, who starred as Raven's character's mother in the top-rated flick.

money earned after all expenses have been deducted from the total revenue. There is a saying in Hollywood that “a percentage of the net is a percentage of nothing.”

It's so unclear, Gregory said. “The definition is basically that you aren't going to get paid. It's incredibly cruel to the creator. Intellectual property is valuable. In Hollywood they buy your property because they want to own it instead of licensing. If you want to own, you should be paying an ownership price.”

Gregory claims that she's received only \$125,000 from the Disney Channel for the two and a half year option, producer fees and purchase price for two movies.

“They have the rights to all 16 of my Cheetah Girls books until perpetuity,” she claims. “They will only take your dramatic rights,” she says about the rights to do the movie, “if you give them all the other rights, the ancillary rights—merchandising, soundtracks, amusement parks—any revenue-producing stream. Aside from books, you are supposed to get net profit. I've never seen a penny, but everything keeps growing and growing and growing... When you

think of the life of these projects, they make studios a fortune. If we didn't need the studio, writers would be amongst the wealthiest people in the world.”

No one at the Disney Channel could be reached for comment by JET press time.

To avoid net profit, many authors insist on gross points, which is a percentage of some definition of gross revenue.

Alice Walker was one such person, yet the Pulitzer Prize-winning author never received a dime in payment from her 3 percent of the gross (at break-even point) for the film *The Color Purple* nearly two years after it was released. She took legal action, but was only “able to get a portion of the monies I considered due to me,” she wrote in her 1996 memoir, *The Same River Twice*.

Walker said in the book: “Everyone who has ever gone after ‘net’ or ‘gross’ in Hollywood has

encountered this ‘Big Man,’ who, in corporate terms, is the power of the conglomerate, the corporation, to which the ‘natural laws’ of goodwill, sincerity and honor are sacrificed.”

Hollywood isn't freely giving all authors gross points either, Gregory said.

“It's take the net profit or no deal,”

## HOLLYWOOD PAY TIPS

Deborah Gregory provides a few suggestions on how authors can protect themselves from “net profit participation”:

- “Get as much money as you can up front for your movie rights.”
- “Consider writing the screenplay or TV teleplay so that you can get into the Writer's Guild. That will provide you DVD residuals.”
- “Have bonus clauses included. As merchandise is made, for example, that will ensure that a bonus kicks in.”



◀ Deborah Gregory, shown in 1998 with Destiny's Child, wrote about them as a contributing writer for *Essence* magazine. The group, which originally featured (l-r) Beyoncé Knowles, LaTavia Roberson, Kelly Rowland and LeToya Luckett, were the inspiration behind *The Cheetah Girls*, whom Gregory created.

she said. "Alice Walker was a famous author...I had an agent and an attorney. No one is going to tell you anything. They've been dealing with this Goliath so long that they are used to it. They are going to bat with their big clients."

Spider Man writer Stan Lee filed a lawsuit in 2005 against Marvel for his unpaid share of profits from Marvel movies based on the character. Lee reportedly won more than \$10 million.

"It's this constant top dog, underdog thing in business. It's not as personal as you think," Gregory said.

Gregory said that authors don't have a real union like screenwriters do. She said they have The Authors Guild, which does not operate like a real union, by requiring membership and providing benefits and mandatory business practices. So studios are not accountable to the authors, she said, although 40 percent of all movies and TV projects have the underlying source material from books.

"I've never received a net profit statement" of how much the studios made from *The Cheetah Girls*, Gregory claims.

"Recently, I've been trying to obtain one from the studio (Disney)," said Gregory. "It's not like we factor in a minor way, but a big way."

On June 24 she will release a new book, *Catwalk* (Delacorte Press, \$8.99). It deals with high school fashionistas who compete in runway modeling contests.

"The book industry is run like a real business. Business is about incentive," she said. "If I have a book, I can be a nobody. But if I get to that base and hit a home run, the more books I sell, the more book money I will get in royalties. The net profit thing never pays off."

As a Black artist, Gregory said she is grateful to have her vision out there.

"I don't like to see people hurt. Nobody talked about it and that's why I'm in this position," she said. "I grew up in foster care. Who I am in this world is about teaching and it's about sharing. I hate to see people get hurt. I've been victimized my whole life. I'm going to risk it a little just to tell the truth. I don't have to be hostile. I can tell the truth. That's how you survive, by telling the truth." □

## ► **Totally Devoted:**

**Jennifer Allen** became the wife of **Patrick Sanders** during a ceremony in a private tropical garden in Waimanalo, Hawaii. The bride is a graduate of Delgado Community College in New Orleans. She is a radiographer at St. Elizabeth Hospital. The groom is also a graduate of Delgado Community College. He is a mortician at Robottom Mortuary/Louisiana Undertaking and vice president of the St. John County School Board. They honeymooned on a cruise line to Hawaii.



## ► **Eternal Bliss:**

Mr. and Mrs. **Rudy Anthony Allen** joined in holy matrimony at the Long Beach Coast Hotel in Long Beach, CA. The bride, **Angela Charmell Jones**, attended Los Angeles Harbor College. She is a registered nurse at Kaiser. The groom served in the Air Force. He works at Boeing in Long Beach. The newlyweds enjoyed a honeymoon cruise in Catalina and Ensenada, Baja Mexico. The pair will make their home in Cerritos, CA.



## ◀ **Happiness For All Times:**

**Felix Nunley IV** tied the knot with **Stacey Lynn Barrett** during a garden ceremony at their home in Detroit. The bride is a graduate of North Carolina A & T State University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is a chemistry teacher at Mumford High School in Detroit. The groom is a graduate of Wayne State University. He is a wellness director at the YMCA Renaissance Center Detroit and a track and field coach. The couple honeymooned in Key West, FL, and will make their home in Detroit.







The  
New  
2008

# JET Swimsuit Calendars

are HERE!

Shot on location in exotic Cancun, Mexico,  
the 12"x12" JET BEAUTY and  
JET BROTHERS Swimsuit Calendars  
are available now  
FOR ONLY **\$9.95!**

Get your calendar online at  
**www.ebonyjet.com**  
or by mail: see order form below



**GRAND OASIS PLAYA**  
ADULTS ONLY RESORT & SPA  
All Inclusive

CheapTickets

**YES! I WANT JET CALENDARS. SEND THEM TO ME TODAY!**

**Only \$9.95 each!** (Must add \$2.50 per calendar for shipping & handling)

**JET Beauty Calendar** (BEAUT8) Qty: \_\_\_\_\_

**JET Brothers Calendar** (BROT8) Qty: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (Please print)

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

My check or money order is enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Make check payable to JPC Calendars. No cash or C.O.D. please)

**Please mail coupon and check or money order to:**

**JPC CALENDARS, P.O. Box 576, Mt. Morris, IL 61054**

C1004A

© 2007 Johnson Publishing Company Inc.

## Love & Happiness

### ► Wherever You Are:

**Frederick Henry Dean Jr.** pledged his eternal love with **Emily Laverne Sherman** at the Reedy River Missionary Baptist Church in Greenville, SC. The bride is a graduate of The College of Charleston. She is a senior vice president and retail market leader with South Carolina Bank and Trust in Greenville, SC. The groom is a QA/SPC coordinator with Cryovac Sealed Air in Simpsonville, SC. He is also a professional model. Hawaii was the honeymoon spot. They will live in Greenville.



### ◀ So Honored:

**Michael Robert Harrison** strolled down the aisle with **Chandra Renee Harris** at Shiloh Baptist Church in Mobile, AL. The bride is a graduate of Duke University. She is a full-time student at Georgia State University, School of Law. The groom is a graduate of Morehouse College. He is a 6th grade lead teacher and science and social studies teacher at Forrest Park Middle School in Forrest Park, GA. The couple will make their home in Atlanta. They honeymooned in Montego Bay, Jamaica.



### ► One In A Million:

Mr. and Mrs. **Cleveland Seals** of Chicago, IL, commemorated 50 years of marriage with family and friends during a small gathering in the Windy City. Mrs. **Mabel Seals** is a homemaker. Her devoted and dedicated mate of five decades has a refrigeration and heating business. The blessed couple are the proud parents of nine children. They are also the grandparents of 20 and the great-grandparents of 10.



# Where Is...

## The Cast Of 'GOOD TIMES'?

By Margena A. Christian  
JET MAGAZINE

**“G**ood Times” is one of Black America’s most beloved TV shows. The sitcom, which ran from 1974 to 1979, looked at a lower middle class family who lived in a high-rise Chicago housing development.

Though the family constantly faced financial obstacles and hardships, it was their love that helped them make it through.

The Evans household

► In 2006 cast members (l-r), Ralph Carter, Bern Nadette Stanis, Jimmie Walker, John Amos and Ja’Net DuBois, accepted the Impact Award for being “a show that offered both entertainment and enlightenment, always striving for both humor and humanity, with comedy that reflected reality” at the 4th Annual TV Land Awards. Esther Rolle died in 1998.

If you want JET to find out what’s happened to your favorite celebrity, let us know at [www.ebonyjet.com](http://www.ebonyjet.com)



▲ The close family bond between the Evans family and their dear neighbor, Willona Woods, helped “Good Times” become one of Black America’s favorite TV comedies. The show included (clockwise, l-r) Ralph Carter, Jimmie Walker, Bern Nadette Stanis, Ja’Net DuBois, John Amos and Esther Rolle.





▲ Janet Jackson got her start as an actress on the show in 1977, where she played Millicent "Penny" Gordon (Woods), an abused child who is eventually adopted by Willona Woods. Shown in this scene with actor Bob Delegall, "Good Times" was trailblazing in that it tackled the tough issue of child abuse.

► Last year Janet Jackson and Ja'Net DuBois attended the EBONY Oscar party where Jackson was honored for her triple-threat career in TV, music and film.



was led by two strong parents, James Sr. and Florida Evans, played by John Amos and Esther Rolle, and included three children: James "JJ" Evans Jr. (played by Jimmie Walker), Thelma (Bern Nadette Stanis) and Michael (Ralph Carter).

Florida's best friend and neighbor, Willona Woods (played by Ja'Net DuBois), and the building's superintendent, Nathan Bookman (played by Johnny Brown), helped keep the good times rolling. Later, Willona adopted an abused child, Millicent "Penny" Gordon, played by Janet Jackson.

What TV's "Brady Bunch" was to White America is what "Good Times" is and still remains to Black America—family.

JET recently spoke to the cast to find out where they have been since the show's cancellation in 1979.

John Amos can currently be seen on the ABC show "Men In Trees." He also recently recorded a country album, *We Were Hippies*. This year he's producing a virtual reality show, *Gangs At Sea*.

He also won fame for his portrayal of an adult Kunta Kinte in "Roots" and for his work in *Coming to America* and on TV's "The West Wing."

Amos is proud of the powerful image he portrayed on "Good Times."

"It's a gratifying feeling," Amos said. "I have so many people tell me that the show provided them with a father figure they never had. So many children from different ethnicities."

Walker, a veteran stand-up comedian, played the oldest Evans son. An aspiring artist, JJ was the show's comic relief and became known for his exclamation "Dyn-O-Mite!"

Walker continues to do stand-up, working 48 weeks a year on the road. He also does a game show for casinos called



Dynamite Dollars.

"Good Times was a groundbreaking show and the number of fans only increases as new generations watch for the first time," Walker said.

He said that excited fans still yell and scream when they see him. "One thing that has changed as a result of increased airport security is that fans don't yell out DYNAMITE when they see me boarding planes," he said.

Stanis played the sassy Thelma, the middle child who aspired to become a doctor.

Stanis continues to act and has produced several plays, including *Whatever Happened to Black Love* and *Sugar Daddy*.

She authored a relationship book, *Situations 101*, that deals with the good, the bad and the ugly in affairs of the heart.

"People talk about my character of Thelma and how she was the 'It' girl and set the standard," said Stanis. "She was graceful, determined and she had dreams

even though she lived in the ghetto."

Ben Powers, who played Thelma's handsome, former pro football-player husband Keith in the sixth season, could not be reached for this story.

Ralph Carter played Michael Evans, whose race pride and dreams of becoming the "first Black Supreme Court justice" inspired his TV nickname "the militant midget."

"That particular character is also reflective of the wonderful consciousness and pride that many of our people had into the 1960s and 1970s," Carter said. "Black pride was at an all-time high during the times of 'Good Times.'"

Today Carter is a playwright and TV writer. In 1996 it was reported that Carter was battling AIDS. He was rumored to have died.

"Innuendos that I've died over the decades—I maintain that when people don't have access to one's personal life, they create things," Carter said. "Therefore, I pay little attention to outrageous suggestions that I am a dead man. I'm alive. I'm healthy. I'm well and I live in New York."

DuBois played the vivacious and fashionable neighbor Willona, who was divorced and worked at a "boutique."

DuBois wrote and sang the theme for the TV show "The Jeffersons." Her

powerful voice later earned two Emmy Awards (1991 and 2001) for her voiceover work as the character Mrs. Avery on Eddie Murphy's



Johnny Brown played building superintendent Nathan Bookman. Brown reunited with the cast in 2006 as they were honored at the TV Land cable network awards.

animated TV show "The PJs."

She recently released an inspirational album, *Hidden Treasures*, and a pictorial book, *In Between Acts*. DuBois is also an accomplished artist who co-founded the Pan African Film & Arts Festival in Los Angeles.

"It makes me extremely happy to be part of the greatest 'shaker' and 'mover' show on the television in its time," said DuBois. "Each performer was unique."

Janet Jackson was added to the show in 1977. Her abused character, Penny, was eventually adopted by Willona.

Jackson, who declined to comment for this story, later appeared on the TV shows "Diff'rent Strokes" and "Fame." Her work as an actress branched into film, where most recently she appeared in Tyler Perry's film *Why Did I Get Married*. Her feature film debut was in John Singleton's *Poetic Justice*.

"Janet Jackson was a talented child when she came into my life," said DuBois,

who also played Jackson's mother in the video for Jackson's hit song *Control*. "I'm not surprised at her success in the least. It was all over her from the start. It was just my blessing to be given such a rare opportunity when I needed her most. She was the final ingredient in Willona's development as a three-dimensional character."

Brown played Nathan Bookman, the building superintendent who could sing and imitate characters.

Brown, who was mentored by showman Sammy Davis Jr., got his start as a nightclub performer and still travels. He is also consulting with his daughter, actress Sharon Brown, and son-in-law, Billy Blanks Jr., on a new workout video, Cardioke, where people will sing while working out to lose pounds.

"We've been really blessed," said Brown about the show's success. "Usually when a show goes off the air, you're forgotten. The show has gotten new life because young kids see it. That's a blessing."

## Gone But Not Forgotten

Esther Rolle was the reason "Good Times" became a TV show. The 1974 comedy was a spin-off of the TV series "Maude," where Rolle's character, Florida Evans, portrayed the maid to the lead character Maude (played by Bea Arthur). "Maude" was a spin-off of "All in the Family."

Rolle played the proud, supportive matriarch of the Evans clan. "I miss Ms. Esther Rolle," said John Amos, 68, Rolle's TV husband who was 19 years younger in real life. "She didn't want to perpetuate the negative stereotype of another Black fatherless family. We all have her to thank for taking that position."

An Emmy-winning actress who attended Hunter College and Spelman College, she had starring roles in the films



*Driving Miss Daisy* and *Rosewood* and in the TV miniseries "Summer of My German Soldier," for which she won an Emmy. She also appeared in Maya Angelou's 1998 film *Down in the Delta* and in the 1979 TV movie "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," based on Angelou's book.

Rolle, who suffered from diabetes, died nine days after her 78th birthday in 1998 (JET, Dec. 7, 1998). A member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Rolle was divorced and never had any children.

"She loved me like I was her child," said Bern Nadette Stanis, who played her TV daughter, Thelma. "I used to call her mom. Just before she passed away, I would take her to the doctor. When I was about to leave and head to the Bahamas to do a show, she looked at me and said, 'I just want to thank you. I want to thank you for being the daughter that you were to me.' It was like a goodbye. She looked at me like she knew. I returned a day before she died."

A native of Florida, Rolle's family donated a collection of her memorabilia, including her Emmy and NAACP Image Awards, to the African-American Research Center and Cultural Center in Fort Lauderdale in 2006 (JET, Aug. 21, 2006).

## A Look At The Creators Of 'Good Times'

By Margena A. Christian

Film and TV screenwriter Eric Monte and actor Mike Evans were the masterminds behind the creation of "Good Times."

Evans is best noted for playing Lionel, the son of Archie Bunker's neighbors the Jeffersons, on TV's "All in the Family." Monte helped to create Lionel's parents, George and Louise, who were later given a spin-off show, "The Jeffersons."

Monte, 65, grew up in Chicago's Cabrini-Green housing projects and he made certain the world knew.

"Good Times" was based on Monte's childhood in the housing development. He also wrote the 1974 cult classic *Cooley High*, which reflected his life in high school. The film's characters inspired the creation of "What's Happening!!" in 1975.

"I wanted to show that there are people who live in the projects who are good decent people," Monte said.

Evans, who was in the TV miniseries "Rich Man, Poor Man" and TV show "The Streets of San Francisco," was a real estate investor and owned property in California. He died of throat cancer in 2006 at age 57. Before Evans' death, he and Monte were working to have "Good Times" turned into a film, Monte said.

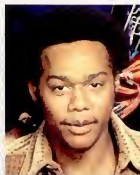
The struggles that Monte faced were detailed in an April 2006 Los Angeles Times article that found him homeless and living in a Salvation Army shelter. He filed a lawsuit in 1977 against producers Norman Lear and Bud Yorkin, and ABC and CBS for stealing his ideas for "Good Times," "The Jeffersons" and "What's Happening!!" Monte received a \$1 million settlement, but bad deals and a substance-abuse problem left him penniless, news reports said.

Today, Monte, now living in Chicago, continues to write—with more than 30 scripts, books and ideas on his computer—and promote a self-published book, *Blueprint for Peace*.

Monte doesn't reap many financial rewards from his historic creation. "I receive a 1 percent residual of the revenue." Monte claims Mike Evans never received a dime.



Eric Monte



Mike Evans



## Opening Theme Lyrics To 'Good Times'

Oscar-winning songwriters Alan and Marilyn Bergman provided JET with the lyrics to the show's theme song. Oscar-winning composer-arranger Dave Grusin wrote the music. Singers James "Jim" Gilstrap and Sandra "Blinky" Williams performed the soulful theme song.

Good times!  
Any time you meet a payment,  
Good times!  
Any time you meet a friend,  
Good times!  
Any time you're out from under  
Not gettin' hassled,  
Not gettin' hustled.  
Keepin' your head above water,  
Makin' a wave when you can.  
Temporary layoffs -  
Good times!  
Easy credit ripoffs -  
Good times!  
Scratchin' and survivin'-  
Good times!  
Hangin' in and jivin' -  
Good times!  
Ain't we lucky we got 'em?  
Good times!!

## The Death Of James Evans Sr.

*By Margena A. Christian*

It was never the intention for "Good Times" to have a father on the show, said John Amos. He appeared in a few episodes of "Maude" in 1973 and 1974 as Florida Evans' husband, then named Henry.

But when Esther Rolle was offered her own show, she only accepted on the condition that her character had a husband, Amos said. A patriarch was added and his name became James Evans Sr.

"This was a wonderful opportunity to portray James Evans Sr. as the antihero to the stereotype," said Amos. "The fact that he

stayed with his family despite the obstacles that the family faced financially. He was there."

James Evans Sr. was removed from the show in the fourth season when he was killed in a car accident out of state. Rolle delivered one of Florida's most unforgettable lines, "damn, damn, damn," once the realization of her husband's death finally hit her.

It was once reported that a 1975 EBONY cover story, *Bad Times On The 'Good Times' Set*, brought the demise of Amos' character, because in the article, Amos and Rolle spoke candidly about their disapproval about the show's direction with the JJ character's antics.

Amos denied that the EBONY story contributed to his being let go on the show.

"The truth is we reached a point where we were at an impasse that we could no longer dialogue civilly about the character (James Evans Sr.) and I wasn't the most diplomatic guy in those days. The writers got tired of having their lives threatened about a script and I got tired of threatening," Amos laughed.

The show's creator, Eric Monte, said, "(Amos) made it known in no uncertain terms that he was NOT going to play a degraded Black man! After I left the show, Norman Lear found the opportunity to write him out of the show."

After James' death, Rolle's character was immediately given a boyfriend, an atheist named Carl (played by the late Moses Gunn). Eventually she left the show. Rolle was written out by marrying Carl and moving away. But she eventually returned.

"Once you kill the head of the family, then something is lost that can never be replaced," Amos said. "It's like losing your real dad. There is a void left."

Amos admits to being amused that people remain fascinated about the killing off of his character.

"I'm glad the controversy rages to this day," laughed Amos. "It keeps me talked about." □



## Suspect In Atlanta Courthouse Killings Allegedly Plots New Escape

**T**he man awaiting trial for a bloody escape at the Atlanta courthouse in 2005 is suspected of enlisting his pen-pal girlfriend, a paralegal and at least two sheriff's deputies in a scheme to break out again, according to law enforcement documents obtained by The Associated Press.

Brian Nichols allegedly plotted to cut his way through the cinderblock walls of the Fulton County Jail, jump into a van and go to his girlfriend up north.

Nichols evidently used his considerable charm to draw his girlfriend into the plot, while some of the other players were bribed with cash and the prospect of romance with the woman, according to the documents, which include statements from the girlfriend, Lisa Meneguzzo, 38, of Beacon Falls, CT, and letters she exchanged with Nichols.

The alleged breakout attempt apparently did not get past the planning stages, and Nichols was abruptly moved to another jail in October 2006 for reasons that are not entirely clear.

Special prosecutor Ken Wynne, who has reviewed the allegations since April, had not discussed the investigation recently, and no charges had been filed.

Nichols, 36, already faces murder and other charges in the March 11, 2005, escape and shooting rampage that began at a downtown courthouse and left four people dead. He is charged with killing



▲ Brian Nichols (c) already faces murder and other charges in the March 2005 escape and shooting rampage at the Atlanta courthouse.

the judge presiding over his rape trial, a court reporter, a sheriff's deputy who chased him outside and a federal agent.

Authorities said he forced his way into a woman's home and eventually surrendered.

Exactly how the latest alleged plot came to authorities' attention is not explained, but they had been monitoring his conversations over a jailhouse phone, and later granted the girlfriend, Meneguzzo, immunity from prosecution. The documents obtained by the AP consist largely of what she told investigators.

Nichols' murder trial has been postponed indefinitely because of a lack of money to pay for his state-supported defense. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty. □

—Associated Press

## Federal Lawsuit Accuses Rapper 'Birdman' In Sampling Artists' Songs Without Permission, Payment

**B**irdman faces a federal lawsuit that accuses him of sampling other artists' songs without paying licensing fees.

The lawsuit claims the popular rapper, whose real name is Bryan Williams, owes several music-publishing companies an unspecified amount of money for using copyrighted songs without permission. The lawsuit doesn't name any of the copyrighted songs.

Williams and his brother, Ronald, co-founded Cash Money Records, which has a distribution and marketing deal with Universal Records, according to the label's Web site.



*Birdman*

The lawsuit claims that albums by Birdman and other rappers, including Lil Wayne and Big Tymers, contain copyrighted material that Cash Money Records used without licensing agreements and without paying royalties.

The Williams brothers and their label made a single payment of \$400,000, the lawsuit says, but have failed to provide the companies with "appropriate accounting" to show how much more money they owe.

Firms named among plaintiffs include WB Music Corp., Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. and Cotillion Music Inc.

—Associated Press

## Aeronautics Firm To Pay \$2.5 Million In Bias-Suit Settlement

**L**ockheed Martin Corp. has agreed to pay a former employee \$2.5 million, more than any individual has received in the settlement of a racial-discrimination case filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), attorneys for the agency said.

Charles Daniels, 45, said he was called derogatory names and threatened by four co-workers and a supervisor between 1999 and 2001 when he worked as an aviation electrician for the company in Florida, Washington and Hawaii.

Daniels, who is Black, said that when he complained about how members of his six-person team were treating him, company managers said, "That's just boys being boys, and that's the way it is here at Lockheed."

"To get called names is going to anger you," Daniels said.

William Tamayo, regional attorney for the EEOC in San Francisco, said the settlement was also the largest ever to be publicly filed in Hawaii. □

—Reuters



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

◀ Kadir Nelson's new book, *We Are The Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball* features illustrations and stories about the game's legends.

treated to oil paintings rich in emotion and created for the

lost heroes of our pastime.

"When I was conceiving the artwork I felt that I didn't want to simply copy existing photographs because that's not for me as interesting as seeing something new. I wanted to show the reader something that they have never seen before," he says.

Nelson's talent has flourished since growing up in Atlantic City, NJ, and moving to San Diego when he was 10 years old. He began painting at 16 and after winning an art scholarship to study at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY, he immediately began his professional career as an artist, publishing his work and receiving commissions from publishers and production studios.

With a large fan base, Nelson's paintings have been exhibited in many galleries and museums around the world. He is also well-known for his many children's books he's illustrated, including Debbie Allen's *Dancing in the Wings*; Jerdine Nolen's *Coretta Scott King Honor Book, Thunder Rose*; *Please, Baby, Please* and *Please, Puppy, Please* by Spike and Tonya Lee; Will Smith's *Just the Two of Us*, for which Nelson won an NAACP Image Award; and *Ellington Was Not a Street*, by Ntozake Shange, a Coretta Scott King Book Award winner.

—Melody K. Hoffman

## Kadir Nelson: Award-Winning Illustrator Debuts As Author

**A**ccclaimed illustrator Kadir Nelson says he's been drawing his whole life. "It's a part of my DNA."

Nelson, 33, is enjoying the success of his most recent work *We Are The Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*. This book is Nelson's debut as an author.

"I think in the beginning it was a little scary because it was new territory for me," Nelson explains about penning the project. "I found that it gave me a lot of freedom, because I was the author so I was able to move things around at my discretion."

*We Are The Ship*, with a foreword by Hank Aaron, takes readers on a vivid journey of what life was like for the athletes in the Negro Leagues. Using an "Everyman" player as his narrator, Nelson tells the story of the Negro Leagues from its beginnings in the 1920s through its decline after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier of the major leagues in 1947. With an authentic voice, readers are

## Black Star Power Tours In 'Vagina Monologues' Play

**A**n all-Black celebrity cast, to include former "The View" co-host Star Jones and current "The View" co-host Sherri Shepherd will soon be touring with the female empowerment stage play *The Vagina Monologues*.

Joining Jones and Shepherd on a tri-city tour are actresses Vanessa Williams, of the TV show "Soul Food," Terri J. Vaughn, Dawnn Lewis, Ella Joyce and Karen Malina White; singers Tamara "Taj" Johnson-George and Cheryl "Coko" Clemens (both of the '90s singing trio SWV) and motivational speaker Gloria Mayfield Banks.

The show will travel to Washington, DC (Feb. 16), Nashville (March 1) and Detroit (March 8).

The tour is part of the international V-Day 2008 Worldwide Campaign, which aims to stop violence against women and girls around the world. The tour's producers are YYP & Associates, LLC (YYP), along with Ashley Carroll of Exclusive Entertainment Production Group.

Yetta Young, executive producer and director, said, "YYP was blessed to be the first to produce *The Vagina Monologues* with an all African-American celebrity cast in hopes of bringing out a more diverse audience." □

—Margena A. Christian



Star Jones



Sherri Shepherd



Dawnn Lewis



Ella Joyce



T. Johnson-George



Cheryl "Coko" Clemens



Karen Malina White



Vanessa Williams



Terri J. Vaughn





# the week's best photos

■ **Fandemonium:** Gladys S. Wilson meets Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) during a campaign rally at the College of Charleston in South Carolina.

# THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EBONY FASHION FAIR

PRESENTS

# GLAM ODYSSEY

A Fashion Journey  
Into Bliss and Beyond

2007-2008

## Spring 2008 ITINERARY

A PARTIAL listing of the cities, show locations, dates and times for the SPRING 2008 tour season

**Montgomery, AL**  
Joe L. Reed Acadome  
**Tallahassee, FL**  
The Moon  
**Gainesville, FL**  
Lincoln Middle School  
**Brunswick, GA**  
The Ritz Theatre  
**Jacksonville, FL**  
The Florida Theatre  
**West Palm Beach, FL**  
Redemption Pointe by the Lake  
**Ft. Myers, FL**  
Fort Myers High School  
**Daytona Beach, FL**  
Mary McLeod Bethune  
Performing Arts Center  
**Waycross, GA**  
Waycross Middle School  
**Melbourne, FL**  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy  
**Coral Gables, FL**  
Bank United Center at the University of Miami  
**Orlando, FL**  
Olympia High School  
**Tampa, FL**  
The Historic Tampa Theatre  
**St. Petersburg, FL**  
The Mahaffey Theater  
**Ft. Lauderdale, FL**  
War Memorial Auditorium  
**Savannah, GA**  
Tiger Arena  
**Columbia, SC**  
The Township Auditorium  
**Charleston, SC**  
Gaillard Auditorium  
**Wilmington, NC**  
Roland-Grise Middle School

**Sun. 1/20**  
4:00 PM  
**Tues. 1/22**  
8:00 PM  
**Wed. 1/23**  
8:00 PM  
**Thurs. 1/24**  
8:00 PM  
**Fri. 1/25**  
8:00 PM  
**Sat. 1/26**  
8:00 PM  
**Sun. 1/27**  
4:00 PM  
**Mon. 1/28**

7:00 PM  
**Tues. 1/29**  
8:00 PM  
**Thurs. 1/31**  
8:00 PM  
**Fri. 2/1**  
8:00 PM  
**Sat. 2/2**  
8:00 PM  
**Sun. 2/3**  
3:00 PM  
**Mon. 2/4**  
8:00 PM  
**Wed. 2/6**  
8:00 PM  
**Fri. 2/8**  
8:00 PM  
**Sat. 2/9**  
8:00 PM  
**Sun. 2/10**  
7:00 PM  
**Tues. 2/12**  
8:00 PM

Every ticket price includes the choice of a one-year subscription to EBONY magazine or 6-month subscription to JET magazine plus the chance to WIN round-trip air transportation for two from AMERICAN AIRLINES, a 2008 FORD Edge and selected items from FASHION FAIR COSMETICS.

Visit [www.ebonyfashionfair.com](http://www.ebonyfashionfair.com) for show updates, behind the scenes video and photos of the show!

Presented By

**EBONY**

Sponsored By

**FASHION FAIR**

**American Airlines**

**Ford**

**JET**

# beauty of the week

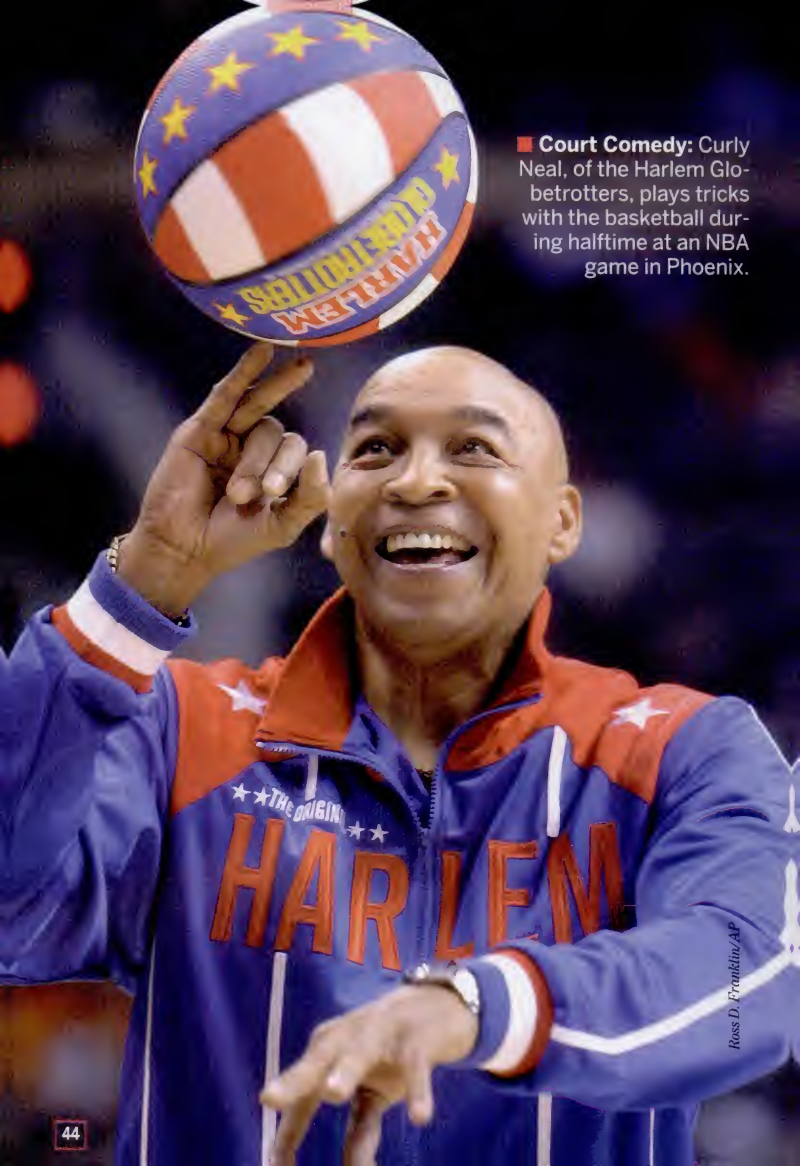
## **MONIQUE ANTHONY**

is a management coordinator in Washington, DC. She also enjoys traveling and skiing.

*Photo by*  
**Raquel Riley  
Thomas**

Want to become a JET Beauty of the Week? For more details log on to

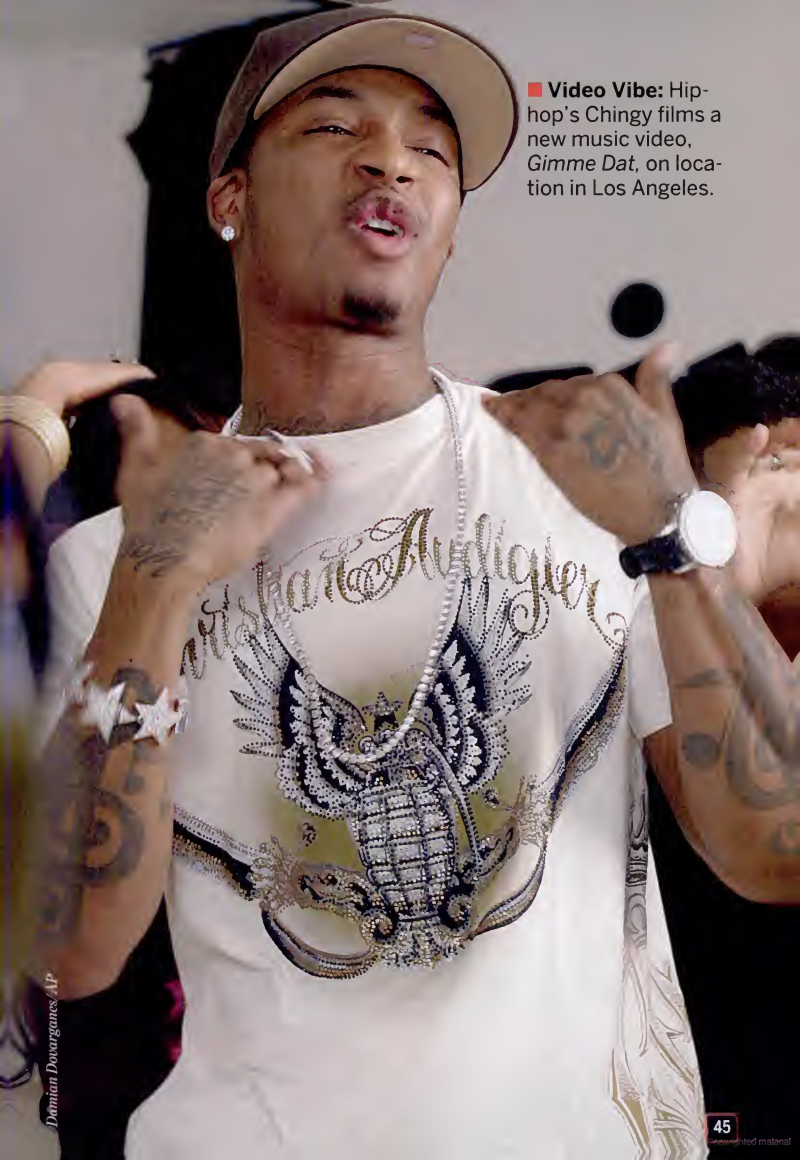




■ **Court Comedy:** Curly Neal, of the Harlem Globetrotters, plays tricks with the basketball during halftime at an NBA game in Phoenix.

Ross D. Franklin/AP





■ **Video Vibe:** Hip-hop's Chingy films a new music video, *Gimme Dat*, on location in Los Angeles.

## Genarlow Wilson, Freed From Jail After Georgia Sex Case, Gets Scholarship To Morehouse College From Radio Host

**G**enarlow Wilson, whose case in Atlanta sparked protests after he was imprisoned for having consensual sex with a fellow teen, will attend Morehouse College with the help of a radio talk show host's foundation.

"Morehouse is a very good school," Wilson said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "It has a lot of history, so it's definitely an honor to be accepted."

Wilson was sentenced to 10 years in prison on felony charges for having sex with a 15-year-old girl at a 2003 New Year's Eve party in Douglas County, GA; he was 17 at the time. His case became a cause celebre highlighting disparities in the criminal justice system.

The Georgia Supreme Court freed him on Oct. 26, after he had spent nearly three years in prison. The court called his sentence "cruel and unusual punishment."

Tom Joyner, a syndicated urban radio host, said Wilson deserves a second chance.

"I asked him, 'Now that you're out, what are you going to do?'" said Joyner. "He said, 'I'd like to try to get my education.' So I said, 'Well, let me help you out, see if I can't get you into one of my beloved historically black colleges.'"

The Tom Joyner Foundation is giving Wilson a scholarship to cover his tuition



Genarlow Wilson



Tom Joyner

and room and board, Joyner said. The foundation has raised more than \$55 million and helped thousands of students attend historically black colleges across the country, including Morehouse.

Sterling Hudson, Morehouse's dean of admissions and records, said Wilson was scheduled to enter during the spring semester, which started earlier this month.

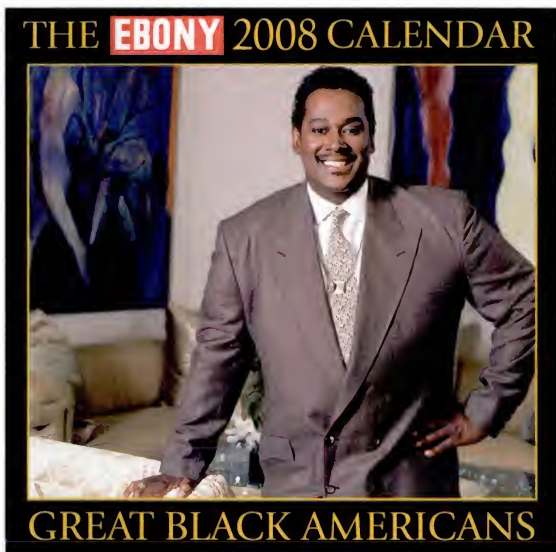
Wilson, now 21, said he hopes to use his education to mentor kids "in unfortunate situations." He is considering several courses of study, including history, education and sociology.

"Sociology is how you deal with adversity," Wilson said. "I've pretty much lived that major already, so I feel like I can really relate to it because I have such a passion for it."

Wilson is interested in playing football at Morehouse, Hudson said. That won't happen during his first semester, but may come about later, he said.

—Associated Press

# Your Year Won't Be Complete Without It!



12" x 12" wall calendar is  
available now for only

## \$9.95

Order online at  
**ebonyjet.com**

**EBONY** has opened its archives for you to enjoy profiles and photos of Luther Vandross, Lou Rawls, Althea Gibson, Isabel Sanford and more outstanding African Americans!

### The 2008 EBONY Calendar: Great Black Americans

Yes! I want \_\_\_\_\_ 2008 Ebony calendars (Histo8), send them right away!  
Only **\$9.95** each (plus \$2.50 for shipping and handling)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Apt.# \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

My check or money order is enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Make checks payable to JPC Calendars)

Please mail coupon and check or money order (no cash or C.O.D. please) to:

JPC Calendars, P.O. Box 576, Mount Morris, IL 61054

C1007A

## More Kenya Protests Urged After Rival Leaders Reject Talks



◀ Kenyans grab food as the Kenyan Red Cross hands out aid in the Kibera slum in Nairobi.

▼ Supporters of opposition leader Raila Odinga chant anti-government slogans at a barricade in Kisumu, in western Kenya.

Khalil Senosi/AP



Dorco Bandic/AP

**K**enya's main opposition party planned more rallies to protest President Mwai Kibaki's disputed re-election, which has sparked waves of deadly violence across the East African nation.

The African Union president, who had been trying to mediate a compromise between the opposition leader Raila Odinga and Kibaki, left Kenya after failing to persuade the two even to meet.

More than 500 people have died in protests and ethnic violence since the Dec. 27 elections and ensuring vote tally that foreign observers say was rigged. The election returned Kibaki to power for another five-year term; Odinga came in second.

Police have banned all rallies since the violence broke out, and have used tear gas, water cannons and bullets to block previous attempts to assemble.

"Kenyans are entitled to protest peacefully at this blatant violation of their fundamental rights," Anyang Nyongo, secretary-general of the Orange Democratic



Movement, said.

Tony Gachoka, spokesman for the opposition party, said earlier that the protest call was a response to the failure of the African Union mediation.

Both sides had traded blame for the political deadlock. According to the government, Kibaki had "offered dialogue," but Odinga was not responsive. Odinga said Kibaki had refused to sign an agreement to establish an interim coalition government and conduct an inquiry into the Electoral Commission of Kenya.

A government spokesman acknowledged Kibaki had not signed, saying he was not involved in the consultations.

Odinga has said he would meet Kibaki only in the presence of an internation-

al mediator. Kibaki wants direct talks.

Hopes for a power-sharing compromise dimmed when Kibaki's allies were sworn in as Cabinet ministers.

The European Union, the United States and Britain have been pressing for Kibaki and Odinga to meet.

Kenya is crucial to the war on terrorism, having turned over dozens of people to the United States and Ethiopia as suspected terrorists. It allows American forces to operate from Kenyan bases. The U.S. is a major donor to Kenya, long seen as a stable democracy in a region that includes war-ravaged Somalia and Sudan. Aid amounts to roughly \$1 billion a year, the U.S. Embassy said.

—Associated Press

## Obama's Family In Kenya Watches U.S. Election

**S**eated on plastic chairs surrounded by chickens and barefoot children, Barack Obama's Kenyan relatives listened to the radio for news of how their favorite son was doing in the New Hampshire primary earlier this month.

Kogelo, the western Kenyan village of Barack Obama's father, has been spared the political and ethnic violence that has erupted in Kenya after the elections. But that, as well as his nephew's political success, were on Said Obama's mind.

If Barack Obama were in Kenya today, he would "work with the leadership to bring them to a roundtable and find a solution to the problems that have been

ravaging the country," his uncle said.

In fact, Obama's spokesman Robert Gibbs confirmed the senator spoke to opposition leader Raila Odinga for about five minutes Monday before going into a rally in New Hampshire. Gibbs said Odinga, a Luo, and Obama's father, who is deceased but was also named Barack, are from the same tribe.

Obama urged that "all the leaders there, regardless of their position on the election tell their supporters to stand down, to desist with the violence and resolve in a peaceful way in accordance with Kenyan law."

—Associated Press

# Ex-Liberia Leader's War Crimes Trial Reopens

**T**he war crimes trial of Charles Taylor, Liberia's former president, heard its first testimony recently and saw video of victims telling of being sexually assaulted or dismembered by rebels who plundered West African diamond fields.

The trial before the international tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, a Dutch city, resumed after a six-month break, having been adjourned in June after Taylor boycotted proceedings and fired his lawyer.

Prosecutors allege the so-called "blood diamonds" mined in Sierra Leone were smuggled through neighboring Liberia and that Taylor used the profits to arm the rebels. Taylor, 59, is accused of orchestrating the violence from his presidential palace in Liberia's capital, Monrovia. He pleaded not guilty to 11 charges. He is the first former African head of state to face an international tribunal.

The opening testimony came from Ian Smillie, a Canadian expert on conflict diamonds. He said miners, many of them kidnapped and enslaved by Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front (RUF), dug up diamonds worth between \$60 million and \$125 million each year.

Smillie interviewed Taylor as part of a U.N. team that investigated arms smuggling in Liberia in 2000. In that interview, Taylor conceded that Sierra Leone diamonds likely were being smuggled in and out of Liberia, but denied involvement.

However, Smillie said he stood by the findings of his team's report and read out a summary that was included in a 2001 U.N. Security Council resolution imposing sanctions on Taylor's regime. The resolution said that diamonds smuggled through Liberia were the key source of RUF income "and that such illicit trade cannot be conducted without the permission and involvement of Liberian government officials at the highest levels," Smillie told judges.

He also explained why the chopping off of hands was turned into the signature atrocity of the 10-year Sierra Leone civil war that ended in 2003 "to create such a fear of the RUF that the areas would be cleared for them to do whatever they wanted."

The trial is expected to last nearly two years.



Michael Kooren/AP

▲ Former Liberian President Charles Taylor is seen in court as his war crimes trial reopened in The Hague, Netherlands. Taylor has pleaded not guilty to 11 charges, including murder, rape, enslavement and conscripting child soldiers.

—Associated Press

# Football Awards Go To Rookie, Defensive Players

**T**he Associated Press recently honored three Black players with top awards for their pro football performance.

Indianapolis Colts safety Bob Sanders earned the 2007 NFL Defensive Player of the Year a-

ward while Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson was named the Offensive Rookie of the Year and San Francisco 49ers linebacker Patrick Willis was honored as the Defensive Rookie of the Year.

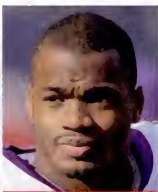
Sanders, the first Colt to win the award and just the fourth safety to earn the honor since it was first awarded in 1971, was a major force behind Indianapolis' dominating defense that allowed a league-low 262 points this season.

"I think the league is beginning to recognize that safeties are very important to a good defense," Sanders, a four-year vet who recently signed a new \$37 million contract and earned his second Pro Bowl designation, told the Associated Press.

Peterson had a runaway performance on the field and in voting. The running back, who set the league single-season rushing record after running for 296 yards against San Diego, also had a 224-yarder in a win against Chicago. Peter-



*Bob Sanders*



*Adrian Peterson*



*Patrick Willis*

son, the seventh pick out of Oklahoma, led the NFC with 1,341 yards rushing in 14 games and earned 46 1/2 votes from a nationwide panel of 50 media members.

"I wanted to come in and be a difference and help the team turn around," said Peterson, who scored 12 rushing touchdowns this season. "I came with the attitude to do whatever I had to do to get on the field."

Patrick Willis won his award convincingly as well, earning 48 votes. Willis led the league with 174 tackles. As the 11th overall draft pick from Mississippi, he made 11 tackles in the season opener and had at least 10 in 10 games. His high was 20 against Tampa Bay.

"The good Lord has blessed me with skills that are uncommon, but are just something that I do naturally," said Willis. "I also know I couldn't do it by myself, without help from my fellow linebackers or that D-line. Knowing that, I just stay humble." □

*-Melody K. Hoffman with AP reports*

# Track's Jones Gets Prison In Federal Doping Probe



Jason DeCroux/AP

▲ Track Olympian Marion Jones enters a courthouse in White Plains, NY, just before she was sentenced this month to six months in prison.

**M**arion Jones was sentenced to six months in prison for lying about using steroids and a check-fraud scam, despite beseeching the judge that she not be separated from her two young children “even for a short period of time.”

“I ask you to be as merciful as a human being can be,” said Jones, who cried on her husband’s shoulder after she was sentenced.

The disgraced former Olympic champion was ordered to surrender March 11 to begin her term.

U.S. District Judge Kenneth Karas said he gave her the maximum under the plea deal to send a message to athletes who have abused drugs. “Athletes in society have an elevated status; they entertain, they inspire, and perhaps, most important, they serve as role mod-

els,” Karas said.

The 31-year-old Jones also was given two years’ probation and supervised release, during which she will be required to perform 800 hours of community service.

“As everyone can imagine, I’m very disappointed today,” Jones told reporters outside court. “But as I stood in front of all of you for years in victory, I stand in front of you today. I stand for what is right.”

“I respect the judge’s order, and I truly hope that people will learn from my mistakes,” added Jones.

Jones had won three gold and two bronze medals at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, which she has returned.

After long denying she ever had used performance-enhancing drugs, Jones admitted last October she lied to federal investigators in November 2003, acknowledging she took the designer steroid “the clear” from September 2000 to July 2001. “The clear” has been linked to the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative (BALCO), the lab at the center of the steroids scandal in professional sports.

She also admitted lying about her knowledge of the involvement of Tim Montgomery, the father of her older son, in a scheme to cash millions of dollars worth of stolen or forged checks. Montgomery and several others have been convicted in that scam. □

—Associated Press



# EBONY EVOLVED

thought-provoking

unexpected

modern

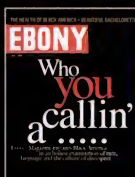
relevant

innovative

current

entertaining

beautiful



© 2007 JOHNSON PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC.

The ALL NEW EBONY Magazine is BETTER THAN EVER  
and still telling our stories like no one else!

Subscribe Today at **ebonyjet.com**

## Sportscaster Suspended After 'Lynch' Remark About Tiger Woods

**G**olf Channel anchor Kelly Tilghman is due back at work this week after being suspended for two weeks for saying on air that young players who wanted to challenge Tiger Woods should "lynch him in a back alley."

The Golf Channel, which originally said there would be no punishment, then changed its stance after the comments sparked outrage, apologized to "anyone who was offended."

"While we believe that Kelly's choice of words was inadvertent and that she did not intend them in an offensive manner, the words were hurtful and grossly inappropriate," the network statement said. "There is simply no place on our network for offensive language like this."

The remark was discussed on news shows the following week. The Rev. Al Sharpton said on CNN's "Prime News" that Tilghman be fired immediately because the comments were "an insult to all Blacks."

"Lynching is not murder in general, it's not assault in general," Sharpton said. "It's a specific racial term that this woman should be held accountable for. What she said is racist. Whether she's a racist...is immaterial. She's a broadcaster. The channel has to be accountable to the public."

Mark Steinberg, Woods' agent, released a statement through the network saying the remarks were a "non-issue"



Tiger Woods



Kelly Tilghman

The Sun-News, Kelly Tilghman/AP

and said he didn't think there was any ill intent. Reportedly Woods and Tilghman have known each other 12 years and Steinberg considered the matter "case closed."

At JET press time, Woods had yet to comment on the matter publicly.

Tilghman apologized on the air two days after making the remark. She said she'd also spoken to Woods.

As the lead play-by-play announcer of the Golf Channel's telecasts of the U.S. PGA Tour and the channel's first female anchor, Tilghman was laughing during the exchange with analyst Nick Faldo during the Mercedes-Benz Championship in Hawaii.

Toward the end of the broadcast, Faldo and Tilghman were discussing young players who could challenge the world's No. 1 golfer when Faldo suggested "to take Tiger on, maybe they should just gang up for a while."

"Lynch him in a back alley," Tilghman said. □

—Melody K. Hoffman with AP reports

# Soccer Star Looks To Defend Gold Medal In Beijing Olympics

**B**riana Scurry wants to make it a great '08 and has her eye on the gold this summer at the Olympics in Beijing.

The 14-year national soccer veteran says this year will be her last Olympic Games and possibly her last as a member on the U.S. Women's National Team.

"This is my passion so it's always exciting for me," explains Scurry. "Every Olympics brings a new challenge, but this year I'm really excited because I'm actually going to try to be more fit than I was in my last Olympic Games..."

Scurry, 36, played her first national match in 1994. Since then, she has been a major force on the U.S. National and World Cup teams, helping the Women's National Team to win the gold medal at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta and again in 2004 in Athens.

She is the most capped (games played) goalkeeper in the history of the Women's National Team and is also the only female goalkeeper in the world to surpass 100 appearances.

"I put on that jersey for my country because I represent so many things. Not just myself, but my family and my country and my community in general. It's an honor for me," says Scurry, who is also a motivational speaker.

"I'm trying very hard to give young African-American girls another choice. Every time I play I know that they see me doing well and striving and being suc-




▲ Goalie Briana Scurry is one of the most celebrated players in U.S. women's soccer history.

cessful in this sport and say, 'Hey, maybe I can do it too.'"

Scurry's compassion toward youth has led her to speak about the challenges of asthma. As an asthmatic for 30 years, she has been a spokeswoman for Will to Win asthma-outreach programs.

"I know [asthma] is something that's very common in African-American communities. Being able to speak to teenagers and telling them don't feel like you're less because you have asthma; you can be anything you want to be, no matter what. Get the right treatment, take your medication like you're supposed to and you can achieve some amazing things." □

—Melody K. Hoffman


 A black and white photograph of Michael Jordan. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a dark tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. He is holding a single Air Jordan XX3 sneaker in his hands, which are positioned in front of him. The sneaker is dark with a light-colored, textured upper. The background is dark and out of focus.
 

## Will Jordan's 'XX3' Be His Last?

◀ Nike is set to release the 23rd edition of Michael Jordan's signature shoe, the Air Jordan, this month. There's talk about retiring the shoe.

The Air Jordan XX3 will be released in three hyped-up rounds from January to February, starting with a limited edition to be sent to only 23 retailers to be sold for \$230 and concluding with the national launch at \$185.

There had been talk at Nike about retiring the shoe at No. 23, but company officials won't say whether this will be the last of the line. Nei-

**N**o other basketball shoe has changed the face of business, athletics and marketing like the Air Jordan.

This month, Nike releases the 23rd edition, and it is expected to be just as popular and venerated as its predecessors. The sleek design and link to Michael Jordan's jersey number—23—make this year's edition a touchstone in the line.

It's also Nike's first basketball shoe designed under its "Considered" ethos, which aims to reduce waste and use environment-friendly materials wherever possible.

ther will Jordan.

"You'll just have to wait and see," Jordan said in an e-mail to The Associated Press, responding to questions about the upcoming release.

Before launching the first shoe in 1985, Nike had just signed Jordan for \$2.5 million over five years. Nike won't say what Jordan's current contract with the company is worth.

Jordan's deal with Nike opened the door for sneaker manufacturers to chase after athletes, signing them up—sometimes just out of high school—for multimillion-dollar contracts in hopes of being



## It must have been the shoe

In 1984, Michael Jordan was drafted third overall by the Chicago Bulls and signed with Nike for \$2.5 million over five years.



SOURCE: Nike

AP

able to cash in on the next superstar. It sent sneaker prices to new heights, which has since generated a backlash against selling pricey shoes to basketball-loving kids.

"The Air Jordan franchise created the most coveted basketball footwear in the world and changed the basketball landscape forever," said Nike Brand President Charlie Denson.

Unlike most basketball shoes to date, which were often white and utilitarian, the Air Jordan was a shock of black and red. It was initially banned by the NBA for not conforming with other players' shoes. Jordan continued to wear them and was fined \$5,000 a game, which Nike paid.

"Nobody expected the mass hysteria created by its release," Jordan, who has been a part owner of the Charlotte Bobcats since 2006, said in an e-mail to The AP.

A new edition was launched each year, and release dates had to be moved to the weekends to keep kids from skipping school to get a pair. The frenzy got dangerous. People were mugged and even killed for the shoes.

The Air Jordans helped spawn a subculture of collectors, who line up at stores to buy the shoe's latest edition.

Jordan said he never expected that the shoe would become an icon.

"Like every kid growing up, I dreamed of making winning shots at the buzzer and I was fortunate to live out that dream, but never in my wildest dreams did I ever entertain the idea of the success of the Air Jordan franchise," he said.

As Jordan's success grew on the courts, so did Nike's in the shoe industry. People from the streets to the suburbs were wearing \$100-plus basket-

ball shoes, which was unheard of at the time. That price is the norm today, but it has launched a backlash, such as the partnership between New York Knicks player Stephon Marbury and the Steve & Barry's store chain to sell basketball shoes for \$14.98—a direct stab at pricey sneakers like Air Jordans.

The Air Jordan has captured a mix of design, marketing, athleticism and player charisma that hadn't been seen before in the industry—everyone wanted to “Be Like Mike.”

“Athletes had been endorsing products for years prior to this,” said Tinker Hatfield, Nike's vice president of innovation design and special projects. “But they were just signing their name to the shoe. I think there was a very understandable difference... Michael's personality and even the changes in the game and inspiration from other walks of life were all sort of being designed into this product and that made it more interesting.”

Jordan and Hatfield work together on the design and function of many of the Air Jordan shoes. Jordan has final say on design matters.

Air Jordan was the lightning in the bottle that every company hopes for.

Advertising images of Jordan soaring across the sky were ubiquitous.

Spike Lee could be heard hollering “It's gotta be the shoes” on television. And Jordan's outstretched arms with the swoosh nearby adorned walls across the country.

Nike quickly moved from a running company and newcomer to the basketball category to the market leader. Some industry estimates put Nike's current share of the basketball shoe market at about 85 percent. Far behind are Adidas and Reebok.

Companies now make athlete sponsorships the centerpiece of their business, spending millions signing them and designing product lines and marketing platforms around them.

—Michael Jordan

Jordan's original deal seems like a pittance compared to multimillion-dollar contracts inked these days, such as Nike's \$90 million agreement with LeBron James.

The Air Jordan remains the pinnacle piece for shoe collectors. The original Air Jordan 1 can sell for thousands of dollars, depending on various factors.

Jordan said: “It blows my mind that even after five years removed from the game the shoe would be stronger than ever and I would still be greeted by fans as if I had just won a championship all over again.”

—Associated Press

**“...Never in my wildest dreams did I ever entertain the idea of the success of the Air Jordan franchise.”**



### ■ QUEEN TAKES HOME THE GOLD:

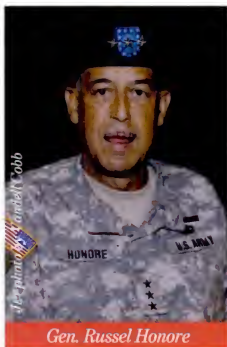
Rapper-turned-actress Queen Latifah recently won a Golden Globe Award for her role in the HBO movie *Life Support* in the category of best performance by an actress in a mini-series or motion picture made for television. The role was inspired by the life of AIDS activist Andrea Williams pictured with Latifah.

## Katrina General Retires From Army

**T**he gruff, cigar-chomping, beret-wearing general who led federal troops into New Orleans after the disaster of Hurricane Katrina recently retired from the Army.

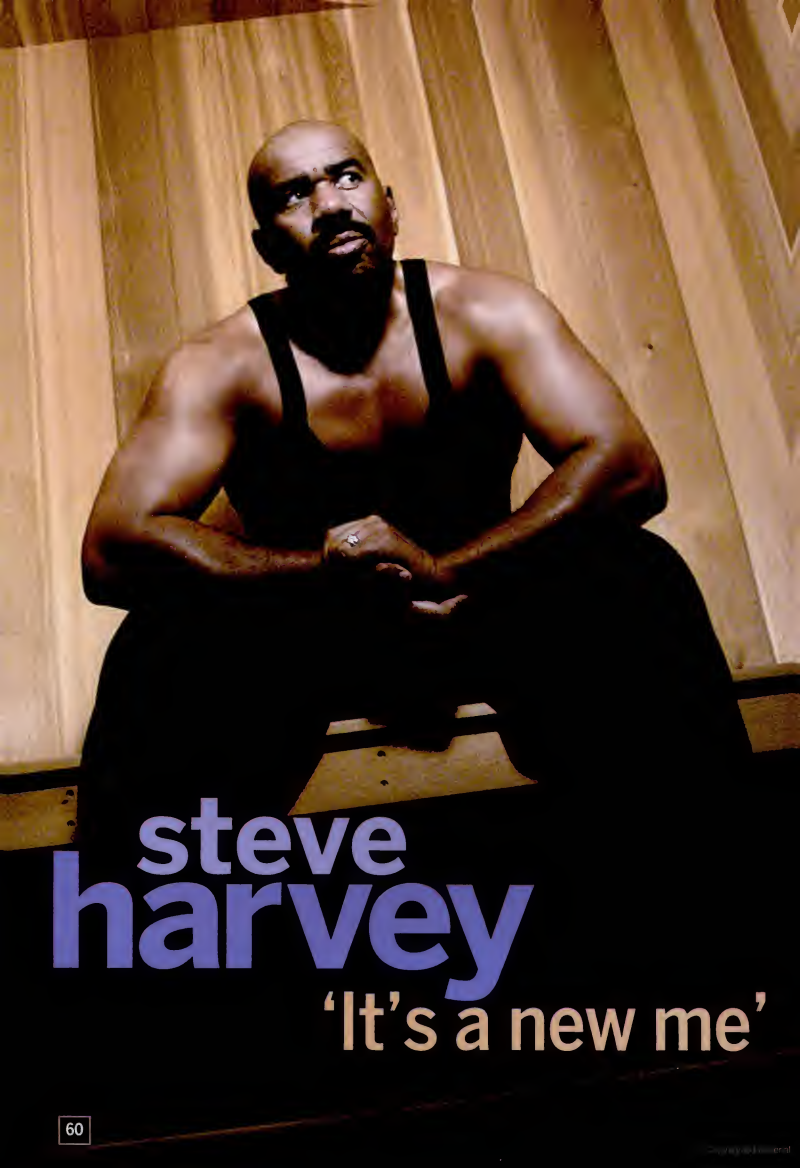
Lt. Gen. Russel Honore dedicated 37 years to the Army where he commanded troops in South Korea and prepared soldiers to fight in Iraq. After Katrina, the native of Lakeland, LA, led the vast relief convoy that rolled into New Orleans during its darkest hour. The 22,000-member force was one of the largest federal deployments in the South since the end of the Civil War.

The 60-year-old, nicknamed the “John Wayne dude” by New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, plans to fill his retirement time by helping others prepare for disaster. According to the Christian Science Monitor, Honore will work at Atlanta’s Emory University to build a disaster-relief curriculum for use at colleges. A book is also in the works as well as possible plans to enter politics according to the report. □



Gen. Russel Honore

—Marti Parham & AP Reports



# steve harvey

'It's a new me'



## COMEDY AND RADIO KING SHAVES HEAD, SLIMS DOWN

By Clarence Waldron

JET MAGAZINE

Photos by Taj Stansberry

**S**teve Harvey has something to say to the Brothers out there.

The funnyman has a serious message for Black men especially those approaching 50 or in their 50s. He wants them to know they have a lot of quality living left to do.

In a dramatic change that might surprise his fans, the comedy and radio king who turned 51 on Jan. 17, shaved his head and started looking at his life in a different way.

He says he was inspired to change how people view men in their 50s after talking to a listener on his top-rated radio program, "The Steve Harvey Morning Show."

"The girl said to me, 'Steve you're 50 and you are over the hill.' I started thinking, 'Wow, I am over the hill? I said 'OK, I got to do something to stop this line of thinking. Because at 50, I should not be thought of as over the hill. At 50, a man ought to feel that he is on top of the hill. At 50, you are still fly.'"

He wants the fellas out there to define 'fly' in two ways. "Fly is a guy who has it together from head to toe. He is dressed sharp. When he walks into the room, everybody wants to be him. He is just cool, just fly."

Fly also means being healthy and spiritually strong, he explains. "Spread your

wings, take off, be great," he urges. "You know more, you are stronger. You are wiser. You have lived a long time. You ought to take out some time for yourself. Your kids are grown or half grown. Why not fly, man? Why not take all that you have learned and all that you have become as a strong, productive, proud Black man and put it to good use?"

He explains that Black men and women must get fit and take their health seriously, especially as they age. "A large segment of our community don't care anything about their fitness, have not been taught about their fitness and their eating habits and the right way to go about accomplishing it. It is a lifestyle change where you can really enjoy your healthy life. We have to learn when to eat and how much to eat."

He also says reading Bishop T.D. Jakes' latest inspirational book, *Reposition Yourself: Living Life Without Limits*, prompted him to transform his life and brought him closer to God. Going bald was like a spiritual cleansing. "Shaving my head was more of a spiritual thing for me. I wanted to be free. And then after reading T.D. Jakes' book, I said to myself, at 50, I can still reinvent myself. I'm going to change what people have been seeing of me."

And with the shaved head, the 231-pound, 6-foot-2 superstar, says he wanted to get his body in shape. "I created the term 50 and fly on my radio show, but I



▲ Steve Harvey works out in the gym at his Atlanta home with trainer Lee Haney, the famed eight-time Mr. Olympia. "Steve Harvey is the first non-athlete I've trained with such a high level of intensity, discipline and drive," says Haney.

wasn't really looking it. I didn't have any definition. I didn't have any shape. I had a potbelly and love handles. I've been telling people you can be 50 and fly, but when I took my clothes off, I wasn't looking fly," he laughs.

He hired Lee Haney, the famed eight-time Mr. Olympia, as his personal trainer. Harvey has lost 13 pounds of fat already and has dropped from a 41-inch waist to a 35-inch waist in about three months.

He works out five days a week in the gym at his new sprawling, five-story mansion in Atlanta, where he lives with his new wife, Marjorie, 43. The estate features a bowling alley, movie theater, wine

cellar and outside swimming pool.

The newlyweds exchanged vows during a private ceremony in Maui, Hawaii last June. Harvey presented his bride with a sparkling, 11-carat pear-shaped diamond ring. They moved to Atlanta over the summer. Harvey commutes to New York to tape his radio program.

It is the third marriage for each of them. The couple has a blended family of seven children. Harvey has four from his previous marriages: twin daughters, Brandi and Karli, both 25; Stevie, 16, and Wynton, 10. And Marjorie has three from previous marriages: Morgan, 20, Jason, 16, and Lori, 11. "I treat them all the same. They all call me Daddy," he says proudly.

Harvey thanks his loving wife for her support in his transformation and helping him celebrate the joy of being in his 50s.

"Because of Marjorie I've become a lot more spiritual. She is a praying woman. She's been in church all of her life. I am who I am on the radio today because of her and the spiritual base in our relationship. She is very encouraging. When I first talked to her about shaving my head and going bald, she said 'I don't love your hair, I love you. I think you will look fine.'"

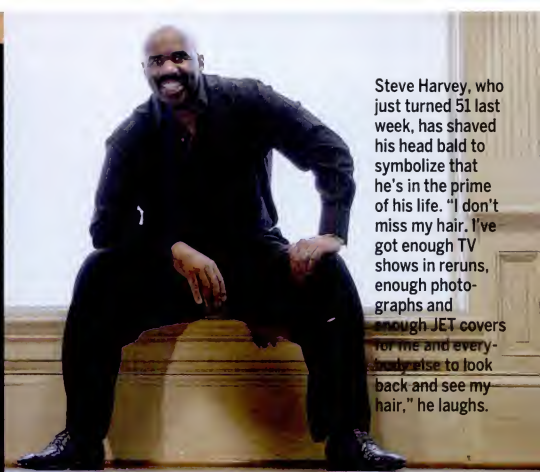
Marjorie Harvey told JET as her famous husband posed for the photo shoot: "I married my best friend. Steve and I pray together. Prayer is very important in our household. I'm proud of him. He looks great. I told him, 'Steve, this is the best you have ever looked.

You are in the best shape that I have ever seen you.' He's healthy, he looks great and he feels great." Then she points at him and smiles proudly, "That's all mine. That's all mine from head to toe," explaining that is one of their favorite sayings to each other.

Harvey brings the spiritual awareness that he and Marjorie share to his morning radio program. He starts each day with a 12-minute segment about his relationship with God.

"People don't like to hear you talk about God, especially the devil and the devil's workers. But I talk about God so loud for 12 minutes every day. I feel a responsibility to share my relationship with God, which is not a perfect one. He's perfect, He keeps His word, but my job is to share my relationship with God and be honest about it. ...God is our Father and He doesn't stop loving us, sometimes He's got to chastise us, sometimes He's got to let us go out there and fall on our face."

He explains the appeal of his radio show. "I have combined my comedic skills with my humanitarian side and my spiritual side. There's no one walking who doesn't need one of them. You need God, you need to laugh and you need some help. I have found a way to address those three issues in a radio show; no one else can do that, that's what makes "The



Steve Harvey, who just turned 51 last week, has shaved his head bald to symbolize that he's in the prime of his life. "I don't miss my hair. I've got enough TV shows in reruns, enough photographs and enough JET covers for me and everybody else to look back and see my hair," he laughs.

Steve Harvey Morning Show" a hit with over 8 million listeners."

Harvey says the downside of being in the public spotlight is that you are open to all kinds of gossip and ugly rumors, especially on the Internet. The latest rumor circulating on the Internet is about his 2005 divorce settlement claiming that it did not stipulate enough child support for his youngest son and that there was "physical abuse" in the marriage.

"It is really tragic that a celebrity has to deal with the evil spirits that are in the world," he notes. "It is sad because we oftentimes have no recourse. People can say whatever they want to say about us on the Internet or on an Internet blog. And we can't do anything about it. But I do have several defamation of character lawsuits in place right now. Legally, I am not allowed to say anything but the one thing I want to be made perfectly clear:

I am not going to chase a lie, but I will live the truth."

He adds, "And another thing that I want clearly understood is: Steve Harvey has never in his life put his hands on a woman, never in my life. That right there is not Steve Harvey. You can write down whatever you want but I will not allow a person to say that I have ever struck a woman."

As for the terms of the divorce settlement, he notes, "Everything that I do is legal and everything I do is above board. My divorce is over and it's done. And God knows the truth and so does everyone involved on the legal front. People try to embarrass a celebrity, thinking that somebody is going to pay them some shut-up money. I have no shut-up money for nobody. And the truth is I take care of all my children, every last one of them. There is not one of my children who wants or needs for anything."

Moving ahead, the busy superstar comedian and humanitarian hosts "Celebration of Gospel" on BET this week (Jan. 27), kicks off a comedy tour with Mo'Nique in March and has a fitness DVD in the works for release in

April. Negotiations are underway to bring his radio show to BET as a late night TV talk show.

Harvey hosts the annual Hoodie Awards in celebration of the unsung, common man who is contributing to the Black community. He also mentors youth through the Disney Dreams Academy. An astute businessman, his clothing line, the Steve Harvey Collection, remains a top seller.

He promises to stick with his fitness program and will take off his shirt on April 7 and show off his new six-pack abs. "He has a four-pack now, so we hope to be close to six packs as we can by then," says trainer Haney.

Harvey remains passionate about inspiring Blacks to get in shape and stay healthy. "This has been an unexpected, amazing path that God

has set me on. I want to lead the way for Black men, for Black people, as a 51-year-old man. I am not a body builder. I am not an athlete. I am just a regular guy. If I can do it, you can do it. This is something that God has me doing. I don't know how far this will go. So I am just going along for the ride. And God is a pretty good driver, so I'm not worried." □



▲ Steve Harvey's wife, Marjorie Harvey, kisses his newly-shaven bald head. "I am proud of him. He looks great," she says.



# ThePlayList

A weekly ranking of the hottest Blacks in R&B, hip-hop and rap, according to radio airplay, CD sales, ringtones or single downloads.

## Top R&B CDs

- AS I AM**  
Alicia Keys
- GROWING PAINS**  
Mary J. Blige
- 100 DAYS, 100 NIGHTS**  
Sharon Jones & the Dap Kings
- GOOD GIRL GONE BAD**  
Rihanna
- SYSTEM**  
Seal

Source: Amazon.com as of 1/14/08



## Top Radio Airplay

- LIKE YOU'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN**  
ALICIA KEYS/J/RMG
- SUFFOCATE**  
J. HOLIDAY/Music Line/Capitol
- CAN'T HELP BUT WAIT**  
TREY SONGZ/Songbook/Atlantic
- INDEPENDENT (F/LIL BOOSIE & LIL)**  
WEBBIE/Trill/Asylum



## Top Hip-Hop & Rap CDs

- JUST LIKE YOU**  
Keyshia Cole
- GRADUATION**  
Kanye West
- AMERICAN GANGSTER**  
Jay-Z
- THE MAKINGS OF A MAN**  
Jaheim
- TIMBALAND PRESENTS SHOCK VALUE**  
Timbaland

Source: Amazon.com as of 1/14/08



## Top R&B Downloads

- NO ONE**  
Alicia Keys
- KISS KISS**  
Chris Brown (f/T-Pain)
- WITH YOU**  
Chris Brown
- JUST FINE**  
Mary J. Blige
- SUFFOCATE**  
J. Holiday

Source: iTunes.com as of 1/14/08



- NO ONE**  
ALICIA KEYS/J/RMG
- SENSUAL SEDUCTION**  
SNOOP DOGG/Geffen/Interscope
- KISS, KISS (F/T-PAIN)**  
CHRIS BROWN/Jive/Zomba
- POP BOTTLES (F/LIL) WAYNE**  
BIRDMAN/CM/Universal Motown
- JUST FINE**  
MARY J. BLIGE/MT/Geffen/Interscope
- FLASHING LIGHTS (F/DWELE)**  
KANYE WEST/Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam/IDJMG

Source: MediaBase

Download our playlist at **Ebony JET**



## 'Dreamgirls'

**D**reamgirls, which was first a hit as a Broadway musical, is the silver-screen production about the rise of a 1960s female super group, featuring **Beyoncé Knowles** (Deena Jones), **Jennifer Hudson** (Effie White) and **Anika Noni Rose** (Lorrell Robinson). The film also stars **Jamie Foxx** (Curtis Taylor Jr.) as the group's Sventali-like manager who leads the trio to stardom. **Eddie Murphy** (James "Thunder" Early) plays a soul singer who gives the girls their first break. Also with **Keith Robinson**, **Danny Glover** and **Loretta Devine** (Monday, Jan. 21 at 9:00 p.m., ET.) HBO

**Duane Martin**, **Kelly Rowland** and **Melanie Brown** in *The Seat Filler* (Thursday, Jan. 24 at 4:15 p.m., ET) Showtime

**James T. Pickens** and **Chandra Wilson** on "Grey's Anatomy" (Thursday, Jan. 24 at 9:00 p.m., ET) ABC

**Alimi Ballard** on "Numb3rs" (Friday, Jan. 25 at 10:00 p.m., ET) CBS

**Smokey Robinson**, **Anita Baker**, **Stevie Wonder** and **Yolanda Adams** on "An Evening Of Stars," which benefits the UNCF.

(Saturday, Jan. 26 at 7:00 p.m., ET) WGN

**Steve Harvey**, **John Legend**, **Patti LaBelle**, **Kirk Franklin**, **J. Moss**, **Shirley Caesar**, **Rev. Jesse Jackson** and others on "Celebration of Gospel" (Sunday, Jan. 27 at 8:00 p.m., ET) BET

**Dennis Haysbert** and **Regina Taylor** on "The Unit" (Tuesday, Jan. 29 at 9:00 p.m., ET) CBS

**Randy Jackson** on "American Idol" (Tuesday, Jan. 29 at 8:00 p.m., ET) FOX

**Jesse L. Martin** and **S. Epatha Merkerson** on "Law & Order" (Wednesday, Jan. 30 at 10:00 p.m., ET) NBC

# Now Is The Time... To Make History.

As we celebrate Black History Month, you can also make history by adding your name to the "Founding Roll of Honor" at Dr. King's Memorial now under construction at the National Mall.

You and your family can make history by taking action to finish this historical effort.

**Please Donate Today!!!**

**[www.BuildTheDream.org](http://www.BuildTheDream.org)  
1-888-4-TheDream**



The Washington, DC Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, gifts to which are deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.



**PROUD SUPPORTER OF  
THE WASHINGTON, DC  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
NATIONAL MEMORIAL  
PROJECT FOUNDATION, INC.**

# ORGANIC ROOT Stimulator®

The Nation's Leading No-Lye Relaxer Kit...

...Delivers Silky-Smooth Results  
Like Never Before.

Available at Fine Beauty Supply Stores and...

**CVS pharmacy**

For Store Information, Call 1-800-ROXT-OLIVE (766-6764)



Olive Oil...Nature's Secret To Healthy Hair!